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Regent cautions against Arab institutions yielding to disunity

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has deplored the disunity and lack of coordination among Arab countries and called on pan-Arab institutions to steer away from weaknesses resulting from the state of affairs in the Arab World.

The Crown Prince also called on Arabs to step in and help the Palestinians, who are "now facing a situation of want and in need of assistance."

In a speech delivered at a meeting of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) in Rabat, Morocco, the Crown Prince said Arab disunity and the lack of coordination and consultations, "particularly that Arab Summit meetings have been indefinitely postponed," were threatening the work of pan-Arab institutions.

"The Arab League is the last living symbol of Arab and Islamic unity and therefore it is incumbent on us to work out a plan for our aspired-for future," the Crown Prince said in the address, delivered on his behalf by Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Nabulsi.

The Crown Prince also said the Arab measures were seeking social justice and "not social propaganda," and efforts should be exerted to

Princess Rahma returns

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma Bint Al Hassan returned home after a two-day working visit to the kingdom of Morocco where the Princess represented His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, at the general assembly meeting of the Arab Thought Forum in Rabat.

Princess Rahma was met at Amman airport by Crown Prince Hassan, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath and the Moroccan ambassador in Jordan.

The lunch was attended by the Moroccan minister of state and the minister of education, in addition to forum members and other invited guests. Dr. Abed Al Aziz Hijazi, former Egyptian prime minister, delivered a word of thanks to the Princess on behalf of the forum members and conveyed their gratitude and appreciation to the Crown Prince for his support over the years.

Princess Rahma had left Morocco earlier this morning and was seen off at Rabat airport by the Moroccan minister of culture, a representative of the Moroccan Royal Court, the secretary general of the Arab Thought Forum, and the Jordanian ambassador in Morocco.

The general assembly resumed its meeting this morning, when Dr. Nabulsi, member of the forum board of trustees and head of the administrative committee, delivered a speech to the meeting on behalf of the Crown Prince. (see story)

The Princess also hosted a lunch in honour of the participants of the meeting, who uphold responsibility. I hope that you will deeply scrutinize these ideas and come out with views that would serve as a new dawn, long awaited by all of us with

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Al Hussein born to Prince Abdullah and Princess Rania

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Princess Rania Al Abdullah had their first child on Tuesday. His Majesty King Hussein named the boy Al Hussein, a communique issued by the Royal Court said.

King Hussein sent a message to Prince Abdullah congratulating him on Al Hussein's birth and voicing his happiness and joy.

King Hussein voiced hope that Al Hussein's birth be a good omen for the Royal family and that he will inherit all the good deeds and characteristics of all those Hashemites who have carried his name throughout history.

Their Royal Highnesses Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Princess Sarvath on Tuesday visited Prince Abdullah and

N. Yemeni leader warns against foreign intervention

Combined agency dispatches

AS THE United Nations deliberated further action over Yemen's civil war, President Ali Abdullah Saleh warned Tuesday he would not tolerate any imposed foreign intervention in his country.

In a speech at Sanaa University, Mr. Saleh did not rule out foreign participation but said his imprimatur must be won before any action was taken.

"Whatever the decisions are they require approval by us, the main party," he said.

Mr. Saleh claimed the south was breaching ceasefire lines to provoke international involvement in the nearly two-month-old conflict, which is believed to have claimed thousands of lives.

"We will not bow to any force in the world," Mr. Saleh said, to a supportive audience of about 500 resident Arab intellectuals.

"They (the south) want from the ceasefire violations to bring international forces into Yemen."

The south wants foreign ceasefire monitors, but the north fears a foreign presence would bolster the south's secession, which was declared May 20. Since the war erupted May 4, Mr. Saleh has rejected all suggestions of foreign involvement.

No foreign nation has recognized the breakaway government led by former Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh, although it is believed to have the tacit support of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

The Gulf bloc has pushed for United Nations involvement in the crisis. The U.N. Security Council Monday began deliberations on a possible resolution involving a new ceasefire call, observers to monitor it, and resumption of political dialogue. U.N. peace efforts led by former Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi, who brokered an end to Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war, collapsed last week.

Mr. Saleh's forces have taken most of the country, forcing the secessionists to retreat to Aden, the country's largest port and economic capital, and the eastern desert province of Hadramaut on the Saudi border.

Mr. Saleh has vowed to take Aden at whatever the cost and in his Tuesday speech said he would never accept Yemen's partition.

"Whatever the (international) decisions, were and regardless of how many, it is not possible, it is not possible that we accept separation," Mr. Saleh said.

Six ceasefires, the most recent on Saturday, have collapsed within hours with each side accusing the other of being the first to shoot.

Mr. Saleh called on Saudi Arabia — although not by name — to stay out of the conflict. Mr. Saleh's aides have accused Saudi Arabia of backing the south with funding for weapons purchases.

"Why don't they respect our will just like we respect theirs. Why don't they stop

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Palestinian shot dead; Israeli stabbed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian broke into a private home and opened fire Tuesday, killing a fellow Arab accused of collaborating with Israel and wounding three others.

In a separate incident, an Israeli man was stabbed and seriously wounded while fixing his car in a Jewish neighbourhood of East Jerusalem.

The army identified the Palestinian killed in Tul-karem, a West Bank town still under Israeli military occupation, as Hussein Mahmoud Abu Salim.

Arab reports said that assailants snuck into the house and that soldiers later took away the body and the three wounded. One of those wounded, Kamel Mohammad Abdullah Nori, 28, was in serious condition, the army said. The others were injured lightly.

Abu Salim was the fourth Palestinian slain as an informant since the start of self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in May. Over 800 have been slain in previous years, with human rights groups report-

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Peace in 3 years or war — Rabin

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was quoted as saying on Tuesday that unless Israel and Syria made peace within three years, he would recommend spending huge sums on the army to prepare for a possible war.

Israeli opposition leaders accused Mr. Rabin of whipping up war fears last week with a similar comment they said was aimed at preparing the public for far-reaching concessions on the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

"If within two to three years there is no agreement with the Syrians, I recommend changing the order of priorities and injecting huge sums of money into the army in order that it could prepare for the possibility of a war," a parliamentary official quoted Mr. Rabin as telling a closed-door committee meeting.

Nearly three years of peace talks have stalled over the Golan Heights.

Syria insists on a full Israeli withdrawal. Israel has offered, at least phased, partial withdrawal but only when Damascus agrees to "full peace" with open borders, trade and diplomatic relations.

Many Israelis oppose making any "concessions" to Syria on the plateau that towers over the Sea of Galilee in northern Israel. Mr. Rabin has said any concessions would be put to a referendum.

Asked by opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu if his remarks about war were not ill-advised, Mr. Rabin told parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee: "I have a feeling that my declarations most worry the Syrians."

"From the end of '93 I cannot recall such a large quantity of weapons reaching Syria and so advanced — hundreds of T-72s tanks, not an insignificant quantity of mobile artillery," Mr. Rabin was quoted as saying.

"The president of Russia said that they would continue to supply spare parts because of their commitments to them (Syria) and that if Syria is able to meet the payments it owes Russia totalling \$11 billion, they will also supply SA-10 missiles."

Mr. Rabin's remarks at the closed meeting contrast sharply with his public comments to reporters afterwards when he insisted there was "nothing new" in Middle East countries arming themselves.

Mr. Rabin said he expected U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to make another shuttle trip between Israel and Syria in mid-July.

"I imagine that the Americans will not come with proposals. We also do not want that. The Americans can relay positions, but if the Syrians don't reach a more serious level of dialogue, there will not be progress," he said.

Air Force commander Major General Herzl Bodinger was quoted in the Israeli daily Davar on Tuesday as saying that the Syrians had recently renewed their arms trade with Russia, buying spare parts at this stage.

Self-rule talks resume on upbeat note

EREZ CHECKPOINT, Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) resumed autonomy talks Tuesday, and the top PLO negotiator said Yasser Arafat would come to Jericho in mid-July if Israel guaranteed him freedom of movement.

Israeli negotiators said Tuesday they were ready to talk about a quick expansion of self-rule to the rest of the West Bank.

"I think our whole government is united in the view that we have to speed up the processes, that we have to move them up as much as possible, though we shouldn't do anything hasty," said Yossi Sarid, Israel's chief negotiator.

Mr. Sarid, the environment minister, denied reports that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin wants to wait and see how autonomy works in the Gaza Strip and Jericho before transferring civilian authority in the rest of the West Bank.

Mr. Sarid spoke after a meeting with PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath at an Israel-PLO liaison centre just inside Gaza where Israeli troops and armed Palestinian policemen mingled.

Dr. Shaath said he would recommend Mr. Arafat come to Jericho once he is able to freely cross the border and move between Jericho and Gaza without being stopped by Israeli soldiers.

This would be possible, he said, when Israel had completed construction of border terminals at crossings into Gaza and Jericho and once Palestinians could travel along "safe passage" roads between the two autonomy zones.

Under the autonomy accord, four safe passage routes through Israel should link Gaza and Jericho, but Israel has not completed security arrangements for the roads yet.

Dr. Shaath said the Israelis told him construction of the new terminals would be completed by July 15. Israeli officials confirmed the King Hussein Bridge terminal was expected to be ready by mid-July.

"As soon as we see these things implemented, I would be very happy to recommend heartily for him to come."

Dr. Shaath said that after he toured Jericho earlier this month he had recommended to Mr. Arafat that the PLO leader stay away a while longer. During that visit, Dr. Shaath encountered several problems with Israeli troops who restricted his movement and at one point disarmed his escorts.

"I was really disturbed by what I saw in Jericho," Dr. Shaath said Tuesday, adding that he did not want to see his boss subjected to similar experiences.

Mr. Sarid said the exact date of Mr. Arafat's arrival in the autonomy zones would be "much clearer" after the PLO chief meets July 7 in

(Continued on page 5)

Korean presidents to hold summit July 25

PANMUNJOM, Korea (Agencies) — The presidents of communist North and capitalist South Korea agreed on Tuesday to hold a historic summit next month, breaking a half-century deadlock in poisoned relations on the divided peninsula.

Negotiators meeting at the heavily-fortified inter-Korean border agreed that South Korean President Kim Young-Sam and North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung would meet for a three-day summit from July 25 in the North Korean capital, Pyongyang.

The two Kims will be the first Korean heads of state to meet since the peninsula was divided by the allied victors of World War II in 1945.

"This is a historic agreement. It will go a long way towards resolving pending issues ... and easing tensions on the peninsula," a Seoul government spokesman said.

The precious fruit we reaped today will serve a foundation for ... ending the history of national division and moving towards peaceful reunification," he said.

"The two sides agreed to hold the summit in the spirit of peace, reconciliation and co-existence ...," he said.

He said Seoul and Pyongyang officials would meet on Friday at Panmunjom to work out practical details for the summit.

Despite the euphoria, South Korea is determined a summit will not be held at the expense of concessions over international demands for inspection of North Korea's nuclear industry.

South Korea and allies suspect Pyongyang of developing a nuclear arsenal. The North denies the charge but has blocked International Atomic Energy agency (IAEA) inspectors from making full checks of its ostensibly civilian nuclear plants.

The agreement followed eight hours of sometimes contentious negotiations behind closed doors in Panmunjom, inside the demilitarised zone that separates the two Koreas.

The summit negotiations have been seen as a litmus test of North Korea's willingness to cooperate in settling international tensions.

The pre-summit talks turned into an indirect encounter between the two presidents themselves, calling the shots from in front of their TV sets.

The talks were being televised live through closed circuits to the offices of North Korea's Kim Il-Sung, 82, in Pyongyang and Kim Young-Sam, 66, in Seoul, officials here said.

South Korea's state-run KBS station was commissioned to send sound and pictures from a camera trained on the negotiating table at the "Peace House" on the southern side of this border hamlet to Kim Young-Sam's Seoul office.

Red-Dead canal — a priority for Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ONE OF the first things that Jordan would like to find out from Israel when negotiations begin next month is the fate of an ambitious plan to pump Red Sea water to raise the level of the Dead Sea in a project that would involve desalination, hydroelectric power generation and regional development.

The project is one of the centrepieces of Jordan's approach to solving the chronic water shortages of the Kingdom, the Palestinians and Israel — all of whom, technically, share the Dead Sea.

It is also part of an envisioned integrated economic and social development of the Jordan Rift Valley in peace time, benefiting all the three, said Munther Haddadin, a senior Jordanian peace negotiator and the Kingdom's top-most expert on water.

The Red-Dead canal is one of the items in the sub-agenda for negotiations agreed between Jordan and Israel in Washington early this month. It falls within the context of Israeli-Jordanian discussions on development of water resources, cooperation in a regional context, protection of resources and development of the Jordan Rift Valley among other things.

The canal project is the first item listed under proposals to develop the Jordan Rift Valley.

While the Israeli agreement to include the project as a topic for discussions could be construed as an implicit acceptance of the proposal, Jordan would like to be officially informed of the Jewish state's views, Dr. Haddadin said.

Israel had a plan to raise the level of the Dead Sea but with water from the Mediterranean. That plan was raised during the mid-80s, only to be reportedly shelved at that time following Jordanian objections after the Kingdom let it be known to the international community that the concept of such a project was not exclusive to Israel.

But the declaration of principles signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in September specifically refers to the Med-Dead Sea canal project with no mention of the Jordanian proposal — another glaring shortcoming resulting from the lack of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in the peace process.

However, in a meeting in Peking in October of the multilateral working group

Subsequently, an agreement was reached in the Peking meeting that the World Bank would finance a feasibility study on linking the Red Sea with the Dead Sea.

Ram Chopra, head of the Middle East division of the World Bank, reaffirmed the agreement during a visit to Jordan this month and said a feasibility study on the canal was one of the regional "megaprojects" that the bank was supporting.

However, he did not make it clear whether the study would involve the Jordanian proposal or a combination of both.

Dr. Haddadin said a feasibility study would cost between \$2 million and \$3 million, and the canal could take up to 10 years to build.

Dr. Haddadin said Jordan

(Continued on page 5)



Munther Haddadin

U.S. urges Israel to heed Hebron report

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

The United States on Monday urged Israel to follow the recommendations of the official investigation into the massacre of Muslim worshippers at a mosque in Hebron in February.

In addition to finding that a Jewish settler acted alone in the Feb. 25 shooting at the shrine, in which more than 30 Muslim worshippers were killed, the report recommended several steps to prevent recurrence of such an incident. "We don't have any judgments about the specific findings," State Department spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters.

"We do know that the report recognises that the authorities should do everything they can to prevent such horrendous acts from occurring in the future, and it makes specific recommendations to that effect, and those recommendations clearly merit full consideration," he said.

In reporting Sunday that the settler, Baruch Goldstein, had acted alone and was the sole person responsible for the killings, the commission also found that several paramilitary border guards were not at their posts and cited shortcomings in metal detectors at the gates to the shrine.

In addition it recommended that the army's open-fire orders be clarified, and that Israelis should be barred from carrying weapons at the shrine.

Mr. McCurry said the United States could not judge the specifics of the report "because we didn't go and independently assess those facts."

"Certainly there's nothing that we are aware of that would dispute the essential findings, but it's not our place to render a judgment on a report that has been conducted by the government of Israel," he said.

Asked if the State Department considered the matter closed, Mr. McCurry said: "The matter is not closed because violence continues in the territories."

He also stressed the need to continue implementing an Israel-Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO) agreement granting Palestinians self-rule in Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Syrian radio charged Monday the Israeli report into the mosque massacre whitewashing the government and the army was prepared before Goldstein even opened fire.

"The inquiry report was prepared in advance well before Baruch Goldstein committed his crime with the cooperation of other settlers and protected by the Israeli army," Radio Damascus said.

It said its accusation was based on Syria's long experience with Israel and because "all the crimes and massacres perpetrated by Israelis in the past half a century have been justified."

The radio warned that the decision to whitewash the government and army "despite all the witness statements to the contrary" threatened the Palestinian people and the Middle East peace process.

The Israeli report said: "Dr. Goldstein is solely and entirely responsible for the massacre."

"The evidence shows without any doubt that he carried out the massacre alone, without any collusion from his family, other settlers or soldiers."

Only the army was criticised for "shortcomings in coordination and the level of discipline" at Ibrahim Mosque, where Goldstein, in army uniform, gunned down worshippers before being beaten to death himself.

The Democratic and Popular Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP and PFLP) also denounced the inquiry's findings on Monday saying it gave settlers the go-ahead to carry out further attacks on Palestinians.

In a joint statement in Damascus the two groups, who are opposed to the peace process, said "the report shows there is a correlation between the legal powers and the government's policies."

It gave "settlers and the occupying forces the green light to carry out more massacres of the Palestinians," the statement added.



SIFI IN ROME: Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro (right) speaks with Algerian Prime Minister Mohamed Sifi (left) on Tuesday at the Quirinale Palace in Rome. Mr. Sifi is on an official visit to Italy seeking to boost bilateral relations (AFP photo)

Aden residents living on their wits to survive siege

ADEN (AFP) — Terrified, weary, desperate for water and shelter from the daily shelling, Aden residents are living on their wits to survive the siege of their city by northern troops.

As temperatures soar above 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit), the top priority for the 500,000 residents has become search for water.

The city's main pumping station was badly damaged three weeks ago in a northern bombing raid, and since then the hunt for water has been a constant battle.

On camel-back, by foot or by car residents arrive at the pumps carrying any object that can be used as a water container. Even after lining up at one of the city's wells, the water still has to be boiled before it can be drunk.

"About 90 per cent of the population spends its time looking for water," said Stephen Tannock, a bygone expert from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Aden hospital director Abdullah Hattab said: "It's a miracle there has been no outbreak of an epidemic yet."

Even the doctors at the

city's many dispensaries have quit their posts to look for water, ensuring that the service, set up under the former socialist authorities, is not running at full-steam.

Frederique Chapuis from the charity Medecins Sans Frontieres said about a quarter of the doctors were no longer at work.

Fuel is also scarce with most supplies having been requisitioned by the army along with cars and lorries.

Northern troops loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh have kept up a relentless bombardment of the southern stronghold since June 11 in which about 400 civilians have been killed and about 1,000 wounded, according to an AFP toll based on hospital figures.

Thousands more, living in wooden houses on the side of a volcanic mountain overlooking the port, are at the mercy of northern gunners.

There is only enough room for 10,000 people in the city's shelters, others have to rely on their own resources.

Some residents in the northern Sheikh Osman area, which has come under frequent attack, have created

makeshift shelters by packing sandbags around a room in their house. Those living in shanty towns have taken to squatting on building sites.

Others have simply fled, moving further into the heart of the city or the Crater district, which is afforded some protection by the hills surrounding it.

Here schools overflow with refugees, several families crammed together in one room.

But for most there is no escape. The airport has been closed to international flights since the war erupted on May 5 between Mr. Saleh's forces and troops loyal to his southern rival Ali Salem Al Beidh.

The closest port is Djibouti across the Gulf of Aden, but even if Yemenis manage to get a passage they cannot enter the African port without a visa.

Among those desperate to escape are young men trying to avoid the call-up. Most stay at home avoiding militia roadblocks that crisscross the city.

It is not even safe to hide in a house, for here they search everything including the coffins.

Battle of fatwas

DUBAI (AFP) — Rival northern and southern Yemeni forces are using fatwas or religious decrees, issued by Muslim leaders of both parties, to justify continued fighting in their bloody civil war.

In the north, the powerful Islamic movement Al Islah, which backs President Ali Abdullah Saleh, sees the conflict as a "jihad" or holy war against the "atheists" of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) in the south.

Sheikh Abdullah Ben Hussein Al Ahmar, Al Islah leader, told journalists recently that the war between north and south was "a holy war that must not be stopped, even if it costs a million lives."

Sheikh Ahmar, also speaker in the northern-dominated parliament, repeated in his name a fatwa issued previously by Abdul Wahab Al Dallami, another Al Islah leader.

Sanaa Radio broadcast the fatwa, which declared that "a ceasefire in the war against the atheists is against Islamic Shariah (law)."

Sheikh Dallami, a professor at Sanaa University, advocated "the continuation of the jihad against the secessionists, including women and children."

His appeal was repeated by imams, or prayer leaders, in Sanaa mosques during Friday prayers.

But southern mullahs close to the YSP immediately denounced the northern fatwa as "heresy."

Southern mullah Said Ali Nour responded with another televised fatwa, calling on Yemenis to "put an end to this fratricidal war" and reminding them that the Koran forbids "brother Muslims" to kill each other.

However, other mullahs in the southern Hadramawt province issued a statement calling on southerners to "use their legitimate right of self-defence" to "push back the (northern) invaders."

The statement, broadcast on Radio Aden, added: "Our religious and national duty tells us to carry out a just fight against the forces of evil, who plunder our wealth and attack our honour."

Abdul Rahman Al Jifri, appointed vice president of the breakaway southern state, used Friday prayers in Aden's principal mosque to condemn "the call to murder innocent women and children."

But Mr. Jifri, head of the moderate Islamic Party League of the Sons of Yemen, called for calm from the faithful who demanded revenge attacks on northern residential areas.

He said Al Islah was "regressive." YSP leaders have accused the movement of protecting members of the shadowy fundamentalist group Jihad, which has carried out attacks on southern targets.

Mr. Jifri also challenged northern Sheikh Abdul Majid Zaidani to a televised debate on the war of the fatwas.

Sheikh Zaidani is a member of the presidential council at Sanaa, as well as being the leading theorist of Al Islah and a declared enemy of southern "atheists."

Mr. Jifri said the debate would be refereed by the principal theological authority for Sunni Muslims — Sheikh Gad Al Haq Al Gad Al Haq, vice chancellor of Al Azhar university in Cairo.

Sheikh Zaidani has not yet risen to the challenge.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab countries to discuss Yemen — KUNA

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Foreign ministers from eight Arab countries are to meet in Kuwait on July 5 and 6 to discuss the two-month-old civil war in Yemen, the official agency KUNA said. The meeting grouping the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as well as Egypt and Syria had been due to take place Monday but was postponed "because of political efforts to solve the crisis," KUNA said. The eight including the six GCC members — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — form of the Damascus Declaration set up at the end of the Gulf war in March 1991.

Kurdish leaders meet in northern Iraq

ERBIL (AFP) — Rival Kurdish leaders agreed Monday to set up a joint commission to try to solve differences which have pitted their factions in northern Iraq. A statement from the Iraqi National Congress (INC) said Massoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and his rival Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), met in Erbil in northern Iraq. They agreed to stop waging hostile press campaigns against each other, and to set up the commission due to start work Wednesday, the statement said. More than 100 people have died since the beginning of May in clashes which broke out after a private feud. The two men met two weeks ago in Turkey in an initiative set up by Ankara to end the hostilities. The INC, which groups movements opposed to Baghdad, also attended the meeting, the statement added. The clashes have virtually split Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq into two areas. The area was set up with the backing of a U.S.-led coalition at the end of the Gulf war in February 1991.

Police wound fugitive Egyptian suspect

ASSIYUT (AFP) — Police on Monday shot and wounded in the back a militant on the run from prison in a gun battle in southern Egypt, police said. Anwar al-Mahmoud Farhali, 26, shot at police in the village of Kabab, near Sohag in Upper Egypt where he had been "hiding in the fields," they added. He opened fire and security forces shot back. He was taken to hospital for treatment. An automatic rifle and bullets were found in his possession. Six security officers had been called to give witness statements to the prosecutors office, police added. Upper Egypt, and especially Assiut and Sohag, 500 kilometres from Cairo, are strongholds for militants who have waged a two-year campaign to topple the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak.

Lyricist Mamoun Al Shinnawy dies at 80

CAIRO (AP) — Lyricist Mamoun Al Shinnawy, who wrote songs for the greatest singers in Arabic of his generation, died Monday after a two-week bout with pneumonia. He was 80. The Cairo Newspaper Al Gomhuria said Shinnawy also suffered internal bleeding in the lungs in his last days. Shinnawy wrote lyrics for more than 1,000 songs in his long career, for among others the superstars Mohammed Abdul Wahab and Om Kalthoum. The poet began as a journalist and was famous for intricate imagery evoked in simple colloquial Arabic. He was also known for a biting sense of humour. Shinnawy is survived by three daughters and four sons.

U.S. to pull most staff from Mogadishu

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States has decided to pull the majority of its diplomats out of Mogadishu because of renewed fighting between Somali clans, the State Department said Monday. "A small number of essential personnel at this point will remain behind in Mogadishu," said department spokesman Mike McCurry. Fighting between rival clans in Mogadishu has not yet directly affected U.N. installations, but a U.S. civilian has been wounded and the U.N. headquarters is in the line of fire, Mr. McCurry said. Mr. McCurry said the U.S. government fears the current ceasefire will break down. The evacuated diplomats will continue to work on Somalia, but from the safety of Nairobi, Kenya. At least 30 people died in fighting over the weekend and three U.N. soldiers were wounded.

Iran restaurant closed over veiled woman

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian authorities have closed down a Japanese restaurant in northern Tehran after it refused to serve a woman dressed in the traditional black veil, a newspaper said Monday. In a letter published in the daily Kayhan, Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati said Seryna restaurant, in an affluent residential neighbourhood and frequented mainly by foreigners, had been ordered to close permanently because it "violated Islamic laws." Kayhan said the restaurant manager had recently prevented a woman wearing the black chador and her husband from joining other customers in the main salon, asking them to dine in his office.

S. Arabia orders satellite dishes dismantled

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia's Interior Ministry ordered residents to tear down their satellite dishes within a month in a statement broadcast by the official agency SPA Monday. Saudi ministers first banned the import or manufacture of satellite dishes in March after complaints by religious leaders. Now residents are banned from owning dishes. "Owners of satellite dishes or associated equipment can re-export them abroad within a month," the statement said. Anyone found violating or importing a dish faces fines of between 100,000 riyals and 500,000 riyals (\$36,000 to \$180,000) and the confiscation of the dish. The Interior Ministry will now choose which of the satellite programmes respect Saudi "religious and social values" and arrange for them to be shown on cable television.

Iran says ships fly its flag to beat Iraq embargo

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has told the United Nations that it has seized ships carrying goods to Iraq which were illegally flying the Iranian flag to beat U.N. Gulf war sanctions against Baghdad.

Iranian media reported the complaint on Tuesday when Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, addressing Iran's complex relations with Iraq in a published interview, said Baghdad should choose between friendship with Tehran and supporting the opposition Mujahadeen-e-Khalq group.

Iran's IRNA news agency said U.N. Ambassador Kamal Kharrazi informed Secretary-General Boutros Gbali that in recent months Iran had seized a number of Iraq-bound non-Iranian cargo ships in Arvand Rud — the Iranian name for Shatt Al Arab, the border river, which is Iraq's main gateway to Gulf waters.

Some were flying the Iranian flag without authorisation. Others had wrongfully declared Iranian ports as their destination, said Mr. Kharrazi in the letter dated June 24.

"Iran has resorted to limited measures in Arvand Rud in order to curb these activities which not only violate Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity but also the international sanctions against Iraq," Mr. Kharrazi said.

Tehran has repeatedly denied Western reports that it allows cross-border trade with Iraq in violation of economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

That invasion caused a break between Iraq and conservative Gulf Arab states which had backed it in its 1980-88 war with Iran.

"It is true that some countries of the region are trying to cause tension in Iran-Iraq relations," Mr. Velayati told Arab newspaper in response to a comment that some Arab countries were trying to undermine Tehran-Baghdad ties.

The minister named no country, but Iran is in dispute with the United Arab Emirates over possession of three Gulf islands and with Saudi Arabia over the pilgrimage to Mecca.

Palestinians to handle tourism

JERICHO (Agencies) — Israeli Tourism Minister Uzi Baram said on Tuesday he expected Palestinians would take charge of tourism in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, birthplace of Jesus, within months.

Mr. Baram, visiting historic sites in the Palestinian self-rule area of Jericho, said he wanted to meet Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, a member of the Palestinian authority in charge of tourism, to discuss setting up joint ventures on the Dead Sea.

Asked when he believed Palestinians should take charge of tourism, Mr. Baram, a member of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party, said: "In Bethlehem, in another few months. No more than that."

Under a broad peace agreement signed in Washington last year, Israel must transfer control of tourism in all of the West Bank within months from the start of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. Palestinian self-rule was launched last month. Israeli tourism officials

estimate that up to a million tourists visited Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity last year. By comparison, more than half a million tourists visited Jericho's 9,000-year-old ruins.

Mr. Baram said Israeli and Palestinian businessmen were ready to begin developing hotels on the Dead Sea. He said under an Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) economic accord negotiated in Paris, Jordan would also take part in developing the area for tourism.

Mr. Baram visited Jericho in a show of support for the Palestinian authority a day after his government lifted a ban on tourists entering the self-rule area.

Jericho is a very good tourist destination, and we would like close cooperation," with the Palestinians, Mr. Baram said.

He said he did not think there would be any more closure, which were "for security problems and done by the ministry of defence."

For the past three weeks and until Monday, tour buses coming to Jericho were sent back by Israeli soldiers who said Jericho was unsafe. But there have been no reports of violence in the town since the start of self-rule in mid-May.

More than 500 tourists have poured into the small oasis since the army opened it up on Monday.

"I received complaints from the Palestinians, I spoke with Rabin and we solved the problem," Mr. Baram said.

Ibrahim Jadallah, in charge of tourism in Jericho, welcomed Mr. Baram, noting that the first tourists were arriving after nearly two months.

Mr. Jadallah said 600 tourists visited Jericho on Monday and he hoped the average of 100 buses per day would be restored soon.

"We hope streams of tourists will come to Jericho because the city's economy is mainly based on tourism," Mr. Baram said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Tao-Tao
17:30 N.B.A. sport
18:30 News in French
18:45 Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:15 World Cup Soccer Match Morocco vs. Netherlands
20:00 News in Arabic
21:20 Daily Cup Summary Summary
22:00 News in English
22:15 Paldark
23:05 World Cup Soccer Match Ireland vs. Norway

PRAYER TIMES

06:52 Fair
07:28 (Sunrise) Doha
12:39 Dhuhir
16:19 'Asr
19:58 Maghrib
21:28 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swaidah, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637385
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624500
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 61757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 640851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824326
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 644195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fine with winds north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. Temp.

Amman 16/29

Aqaba 23/37

Deserts 15/32

Jordan Valley 22/36

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 27 Aqaba 35 Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 31 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Jamil Tari 747111
Dr. Abbas Hakim 885446
Dr. Fayez Dahbas 759155
Dr. Youssef Rashed 896301
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637655
Naimukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636780
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Shimshani pharmacy 637601
Naimukh pharmacy 623272
Najih pharmacy 851252

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Shuqiri 246140
Al Oudh pharmacy 1-1

ZARQA:
Dr. Rafeh Attallah 984334
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

First Aid Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896309
Public Security Department 820521
Hotel Complaints 661800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 747111
Complaints 747111
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Multi-Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 731111
Radio Jordan 624111
Water Authority 662219
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 18-53281

Queen Alia Intl Airport 18-53281

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre, 81381332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Akaleh Maternity, J. Amn 6424012
Malhas, J. Amman 6361401
Palestine, Shmashani 6617144
Shmashani Hospital 669151
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushter Hospital 6672737
The Islamic, Abdali 6641737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6616404
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126
Army, Marka 8916115
Queen Alia Hospital 6224050
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09/983323
Rajha Hospital 09/983323
Al-Hamud Hospital 09/983323

IRBID:
Princess Basmal Hospital 01275555
Greek Catholic Hospital 01272775
Bn Al Nakos Hospital 01274701
AQABA:
Princess Hava Hospital 01314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:30 Jericho (RJ)
09:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:15 Larnaca (RJ)
10:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:15 Madrid (RJ)
17:35 London (RJ)
18:25 Istanbul (RJ)
18:25 Paris (RJ)
19:00 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
19:10 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
19:25 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:30 Rome (RJ)
00:10 Beirut (RJ)
01:25 Jeddah (RJ)
01:25 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:10 Damascus (AZ)
11:25 Larnaca (CY)
11:30 Jeddah (SA)

DEPARTURES

Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30 Rome (RJ)
11:35 Berlin, London (RJ)
12:00 Casa Blanca, Tunis (RJ)
12:40 Manama (RJ)
13:40 Larnaca (RJ)
14:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
14:05 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
14:10 Riyadh (RJ)
14:15 New Delhi (RJ)
15:10 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
09:30 Dubai (RJ)
01:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00 Beirut, Paris (AF)
09:15 Beirut (AZ)
12:10 Rome (AZ)
12:15 Larnaca (CY)
13:00 Jeddah (SA)
14:00 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Abu Dhabi (GF)
16:15 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PI)
17:20 Algiers, Sharm El Sheikh (EM)
00:25 Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 5:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

Home News



VOLUNTEER WORK: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday chairs a meeting of the Amman Inner Wheel Club to discuss the club's programmes, projects and future plans. The Princess is the honorary president of the club. The club's administrative committee members, who met with Princess Basma at the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), stressed the importance of developing cooperation with QAF in the area of social

Irbid road accident death toll rises to 29

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The death toll from Monday's tragic road accident in Irbid has risen to 29, a Civil Defence Department report said.

Four more people died in Irbid and Amman hospitals Tuesday as a result of injuries sustained in a collision between two buses and a tractor on the Amman-Irbid road over Al Naimeh intersection.

The dead include: Salem Abu Hashem (42), Manal Farhan (23), Majid Murad (6), Mohammad Murad (8), Bassam Rousan (36) — bus driver —, Sultan Bani Hani (30) — bus driver —, Ahmad Jaradat (50) — tractor driver —, Han'a Nimer (25), Saoud Ma'ayrah (18), Ali Mustafa (15), Hassan Rousan (60), Samira Sarhan (40), Mahmoud Yousef (10),

Nariman Sulaiman (21), Reem Abu Aoun (22), Bassem Abu Nimeh (30), Mohammad Obeidat (20), Khuloud Dababneh (24), Ahmad A.M. Khatib (28), Akram Farah (42), Iman Sahouri (20), Lamis Mirshed (40), Huda Mousa (40), Issam Broush (25), Khuloud Nasser (40), Ayad Hussein (3), Suzan Ayash, Rami Yousef and one woman who was not yet identified.

The accident was one of the worst in the Kingdom. Preliminary investigations by the Traffic Department showed that the driver of the tractor was driving on the right hand side of the road and started turning left to make a U-turn. The bus driver that was driving to the tractor's left side, according to Traffic Department sources, steered to the left in an attempt to avoid the tractor.

At the same time another bus was coming from the other direction.

The three vehicles met head on. The accident killed 29 people and injured another 94.

Nasser Zubi, director of Princess Basma Hospital where 33 casualties were admitted, told the Jordan Times that the hospital received six patients from Rosary Hospital in Irbid and 19 victims left hospital.

"We have few critical cases and some people are in the intensive care unit (ICU); hopefully they will survive," said Dr. Zubi.

He said the hospital was on full alert since learning of the accident, adding that the local community also contributed in saving lives by donating blood.

Ibn Nafis Hospital received 19 casualties and four dead. A hospital official

told the Jordan Times that five people left hospital and five serious cases were transferred to Princess Basma and Prince Rashed hospitals.

The Rosary Hospital received 29 casualties and six dead. A hospital official said the critical cases were transferred to other hospitals and three people are still being treated.

Most of the remaining injured were taken to Prince Rashed Military Hospital.

Hospital officials declined to release any information.

The secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents, Lina Sbeib, told the Jordan Times that the society will launch an investigation to determine the cause of the accident. She added that the society is trying to con-

tact the Traffic Department to cooperate in finding ways to prevent such disastrous accidents from occurring.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, who visited victims of the accident Monday evening, paid more visits Tuesday to the hospitals caring for the injured. The Regent spoke to several patients wishing them a speedy recovery.

Toll rises to 32

Jordan Television reported late Tuesday that the number of dead from Monday's road accident in Irbid has risen to 32. The names of the three additional deceased were not immediately available.

Hashem Khreisat to head radio

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Tuesday announced changes in the information services, appointing Chief Editor of Sawt Al Shaab daily Hashem Khreisat as director of Radio Jordan, and appointing the outgoing director Fayez Qudah as adviser at the information ministry.

The government is the majority shareholder in this Arabic daily, which has been suffering financial losses over recent years.

The Council of Ministers on June 14 had announced the appointment of Hasan Ramzi as director general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation to succeed Radi Al Khas who resigned earlier this year.

Mr. Ramzi had served as director of programmes at Jordan Television and Radio before going to Oman where he was head of the Omani Radio's programmes department. Later he joined the London-based Middle East Broadcasting Centre (MBC) and served as its director general until his appointment in Jordan.

Also Tuesday the government announced its acceptance of the resignation of Abdul Salam Tarawneh who was serving as director of the information ministry to become editor of Sawt Al Shaab.

Mr. Khreisat, a former president of Jordan Press Association (JPA), had

'Dry land deterioration necessitates agricultural development strategy'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Because dry land deterioration, a five-day regional seminar will seek to draft a strategy for sustainable agricultural development in semi-arid and dry areas, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Abdul Muti Tillawi from the ministry's information Department told the Jordan Times that the meeting, scheduled to start on July 3, and organised by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) regional centre, is expected to be attended by representatives of 33 nations.

The 180 delegates will discuss and review experiments by their countries in agricultural development and will examine preparations for an international conference on food to be held in 1996, as well as measures to combat desert locusts and cooperation between FAO and countries of the region in agriculture and food production techniques, according to Mr. Tillawi.

A document to be submitted to the participants for study points out that dry lands in the Near East region have been exposed to severe strain and have deteriorated because of the lack of natural resources, particularly water, according to Mr. Tillawi.

He said the document calls on the countries of the region to draw up an integrated strategy to help maintain the soil and advance food production.

In addition to working papers, the delegates will study the FAO regional office report on activities in the region between 1992 and 1993 and will study a declaration on food and nutrition in the Near East region, Mr. Tillawi said.

The meetings will be held at the Forte Grand Hotel in Amman and will also be attended by delegates from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in addition to the Vatican and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

2-day work safety seminar opens

Occupational injuries double in 10 years

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Occupational injuries over the past decade more than doubled from 6,012 in 1984 to 13,868 in 1993 while deaths resulting from workshop and factory accidents rose to 63 in 1993 from 32 in 1984, according to Minister of Labour Khaled Ghazawi.

Addressing the opening session of a two-day meeting on occupational safety, organised at the Amman Chamber of Industry by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), the minister said the number of injuries and deaths among workers rose with the growth of industry and businesses in the country over the past 10 years and cost Jordan nearly JD 6.5 million rising to some JD 18 million in 1993.

With the tremendous industrial and economic development came significant growth in automation, the number of businesses and projects as well as an increase in the number of related accidents, said Mr. Ghazawi.

To help instruct workers on taking precautionary safety measures at factories, the VTC has created the Occupational Safety and Health Institute (OSHI); the Social Security Corporation (SSC) covers the cost of treatment and pays workers compensation in case of injury and disability, said Mr. Ghazawi.



Vocational Training Corporation Director General Ahmad Atwan addresses the opening session of a two-day occupational safety seminar (Petra photo)

OSHI, working in cooperation with Lakeland College in the Canadian province of Alberta, has launched a four-year project which started in 1993 to promote OSHI and VTC services to workers in Jordan, according to Jean Devlin, first secretary of the Canadian embassy in Amman.

Mr. Devlin told the Jordan Times that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is funding the project, and together with OSHI and Lakeland College experts, is sponsoring its implementation.

VTC Director General Ahmad Atwan told the opening session that his office has created 16 training centres for men and 12 vocational training centres for women and set up three occupational safety and health training centres.

Mr. Atwan said that by the end of 1993 the VTC centres had trained 88,000 workers through long and short term courses.

Organised in cooperation with the Industrial Development Bank and the SSC, the seminar is designed to raise the concerned parties' level of interest in occupational safety measures and to promote cooperation between the local and international organisations in workers issues.

Dr. Atwan said several experts from Canada and Jordan will address the participants who will review a number of working papers.

The opening session was attended by representatives of several concerned government departments, the Armed Forces, the Civil Defence Department (CDD), Jordanian universities, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other institutions.



Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan Tuesday briefs a visiting World Bank delegation on the country's efforts to develop its tourism industry (Petra photo)

World Bank pledges \$500,000 to tourism development

AMMAN (Petra) — A World Bank delegation, currently on a visit to Jordan, Sunday pledged \$500,000 to support studies and plans to develop the tourism sector in Jordan.

The delegation members, who met with Tourism and Antiquities Minister Mohammad Adwan, promised to provide assistance to Jordan to help it develop and promote traditional industries as a means of supporting income and providing job opportunities.

Dr. Adwan briefed the group on Jordan's tourist attractions and explained that tourism is one of the country's major industries in providing job opportunities and supporting income and in helping to solve many economic and social problems.

The minister said a comprehensive peace should have a great impact on the various sectors in the region, adding that tourism will be one of the sectors most affected by peace.

He stressed that the government directs special attention to the tourism sector and works diligently to further develop it.

Dr. Adwan emphasised the importance of cooperation between the public and private sectors and the ongoing consultation on the best ways

Transport sector calls for 'land ports' to organise activities for truck fleets

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in a two-day meeting on promoting the transport sector Tuesday issued a set of recommendations calling for, among other things, the creation of a "land port" in Amman and the other government bodies within an integrated plan to organise the activities of land transport fleets.

A statement containing the recommendations called on the government to allow the private sector to set up major transport firms by merging the small transport companies and introducing a ratings and classification system with rules governing transport companies' operations with a view to raising the standard of services and promoting internal and external trade.

The statement at the final session called for the creation of a data bank at the Ministry of Transportation to provide information to investors and organise land transport operations.

The participants, who represented public departments and transport unions as well as transport companies operating in Jordan, called on the government to conduct a comprehensive examination of legislations and regulations governing the transport sector and to speed up work on the creation of a proposed higher council for transport.

They also urged the government to re-examine the set of charge rates on transporting goods, taking into account the actual operational costs and allowing for reasonable margins of profit for investors in the transport sector.

In addition, the participants urged the government to create an opportune climate for investors to launch ventures in the transport sector such as granting them exemptions from duty on equipment similar to other economic projects.

They asked the government to re-examine Jordan's agreements on land transport with neighbouring countries in a manner that would offer Jordanian truck owners a better competitive position.

Transport Minister Samir Kawar had told the opening session that Jordan's 9,000-truck fleet incurred losses estimated at \$500 million because of a decline in transport activities since the Gulf crisis began in August 1990.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestinian envoy decorated
AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Tala Al Hassan Tuesday decorated Palestinian Ambassador in Amman Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim with Jordan's Independence Medal of the First Order, which was conferred upon him by His Majesty King Hussein. The decoration took place during a luncheon hosted by Mr. Al Hassan to honour the ambassador on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in Jordan.

Music academy graduate first class
AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, Minister of Higher Education Rateb Al Saoud Tuesday attended the graduation ceremony of the first class of students from the Jordanian Music Academy. Dr. Saoud presented certificates to the 14 graduates who completed four years of post secondary education in music. The academy was established in 1989 to promote musical awareness and prepare specialised musicians. Attending the graduation ceremony were chairmen and members of the academy's board of directors and trustees, the academy's dean and the teaching staff, in addition to invitees.

WHAT'S GOING ON

WORLD CUP USA 1994

- ★ Arabic language video series of World Cup football matches entitled "World Cup USA 1994" at the American Center Auditorium (4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.).

CONCERT

- ★ Concert at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Film in English entitled "The Treasure of Amadira" at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 7:00 p.m.

THIRD YOUTH THEATRE FESTIVAL

- ★ Drama in Arabic entitled "There...on the Other Side of the Shore" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition by artists Hassan Abboud and Hadi Sa'id at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- ★ Exhibition by artist Bishara Al Najjar at the Orient Gallery for Fine Arts, Gardens Str. (Tel. 698513).
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by artist Muhammad Abu Zraiq at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).
- ★ Exhibition of Jordanian-made furniture at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel (11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and 4:00-11:00 p.m.).
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Abdullah Abu Asali and Issam Nseirat at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Painting exhibition by Iraqi painters "The Pioneers Group" at Al Ain Art Gallery — Wadi Saqra (Tel. 644451).
- ★ Painting exhibition by Naifa Deeb at the Goethe-Institut.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Form and Colour in the Arab Art Exhibition" by 16 artists from Jordan and Iraq at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by artist Mohammad Fradi at the Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Exhibition on the development of "Le Louvre" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Painting exhibition by artist George Bahjouri at Al Balqa Art Gallery (Tel. 720677).
- ★ Painting exhibition by Jordanian artist Abdul Ra'uf Sham'un at Darat Al Fannun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Laweidh. Also showing "permanence" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

ACC loans farmers JD 5.5m

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) has granted JD 5.5 million in loans to 2,050 farmers during the first six months of this year, according to the ACC Director General Mohammad Abdul Salam Arabiyat.

Mr. Arabiyat said that more than 80 per cent of these loans went to small farmers in the various parts of the country.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Arabiyat said the ACC has introduced a credit scheme for rural families supported by women. The scheme, he said, aims to diversify sources of family income, increase agricultural production, and provide jobs

Jordan Times

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Compromise high on scale

NEGOTIATIONS ON the Syrian-Israeli track have entered, according to American officials, a "substantive stage." While only a few people seem to know how "substantive" these negotiations have become, especially in the absence of formal and open talks between the two sides, it seems that behind-the-scenes deliberations, sponsored by the U.S., are indeed taking place. Yet the talks seem to be still bogged down, explaining the postponement of a trip to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The declared positions of the two sides are far from reflecting the complexity of the situation they are in. While Israel sometimes hints that it is ready to pull out of the Golan Heights for a full peace with Syria, the latter maintains that Israel's commitment to withdrawal should precede any talk of normalisation of relations. On the other hand, while the U.S. is working to bridge the gap between the two countries and nudge them to sign a declaration of principles, they appear to be perpetually engaged in a game of brinkmanship that goes beyond the immediate issue of the occupied Golan Heights.

Israel does not just seek normal relations with Syria and certainly does not want to see these relations serving to improve Syria's ties with the U.S. From Syria's point of view, good relations with the U.S., the only superpower left in today's world, are more important than normal ties with Israel, which remains merely a regional power. Syria knows that it will take a long time to alter or offset the strategic alliance between the U.S. and Israel. But if peace is vital for American interests in the area, then Syria, Syrian leaders think, is as important to U.S. strategic interests as Israel is, if not more, given Syria's position and role in the Arab World and its relations with Iran. That is why perhaps Damascus appears more engaged at the moment in negotiations with the U.S. than with Israel.

Israel, in the meanwhile, gleeful at the failings of the west's Arab allies, would not want to see a Syria assuming a leading role in the regional affairs of the Middle East. Israel is therefore willing to accept a Syrian role in Lebanon, but no more.

In all cases, the U.S. realises the stabilising role that a Syria which is at peace with Israel can play in the whole region. Whether the U.S. would finally choose to accept Syria's yearnings or Israeli protestations will become clear only when Washington makes its next move in the region, which is expected to take place sometime in July.

Only last week the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, flexing muscles on a visit to the Golan, warned Syria by claiming that Damascus was acquiring sophisticated North Korean missiles. The U.S. did not react to Rabin's claims. This indicates that the Americans would not condone Tel Aviv's new allegation nor condemn Damascus' alleged acquisition of weapons. That further points to the U.S. weighing its options and positioning itself to lure both parties into a compromise.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour Tuesday criticised Turkey and other Muslim countries which offer the Iraqi lip service and take no practical steps to end the embargo. We hear the Turks announcing their desire to flush the oil in the pipeline running to Turkey from the Iraqi oil fields so that the revenues could be used to buy food and medicine for the Iraqi people, said Mohammad Kawash. This is a small and timid gesture that can by no means end the suffering of the Iraqi women and children, said the writer. What is required is a more daring and courageous step at the political level and a clear decision from Ankara to end the sanctions on Iraq, said the writer. He said many Islamic countries and some of the Arab states want to see an end to the Iraqi people's sufferings but they are afraid to take any step in that direction. Furthermore, he said, certain Arab states are encouraging the United States to maintain the embargo on the Iraqi brothers at a time when we notice that European nations are launching contacts with Baghdad to deal with Iraq in trade and economic fields once the sanctions have been lifted.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour addressed the issue of drug abuse in Jordan, citing official figures, which say that between 6000 and 7000 are addicted to some kind of drugs. For years, we have been falsely reassuring ourselves that Jordan is free of drug addicts but suddenly we are told that we have so many young people who take drugs, said Mohammad Daoud. The writer said that according to the official figures, many of the drug addicts or users are non-Jordanians living in the country. The time has come for the government to reexamine measures for allowing non-Jordanian workers to be employed in the Kingdom not only because they deprive the local residents of job opportunities but also because they bring in or help to spread the use of harmful drugs among the young, said the writer. He said that by taking drastic action against the non-Jordanian drug abusers and by adopting more efficient methods to deal with the drug issue at the national level, the country would become a safer place for people to live.

Israelis face an unpalatable truth

By G. H. Jansen

A VERY spirited debate has been going on in Israel on a fundamental issue: the creation of the Jewish state, sparked by statements made by no less a person than the President of Israel, Ezer Weizman.

The president was addressing gatherings in Jerusalem of two organisations of "diaspora" Jews, the Jewish Agency and United Jewish Appeal, which have made great contributions to the establishment of Israel — political, diplomatic and, particularly, financial — without which the state may have never come into existence (of which the present day Israelis do not like being reminded).

The president, who was a dashing fighter pilot in the R.A.F. during World War II, told the audience some very unpalatable truths. That as Jews, and Zionist Jews, they should not be living in the "diaspora" outside Israel, but should make "Aliya", emigrate to the Jewish state. And that the ultimate objective of Israel was to complete the process of "the gathering of the exiles" by having all of the Jews in all of the world, about 15 million of

them, settled in Israel. The president went on to say that he knew his audience would not like what he said but that he was not going to apologise for his words or change his opinion. Sticking to his guns he said that he recognised the fact of the "diaspora," that Jewish communities had settled elsewhere, but that, as he put it, he could not "legitimise" the diaspora. Meaning that he could not approve of the fact of its existence.

The president knew exactly what the angry reaction to his words would be from the "diaspora" Jews, who quite simply rejected them, because his views had been expressed by David Ben Gurion, the first prime minister of Israel, soon after the establishment of the state by which time it had already become clear that while Jews from many parts of the world would go to Israel very few would do so from Europe or America. Being a tough and forthright man Ben Gurion went further and said that those calling themselves Jews who did not settle in Israel were really not Jews at all.

The uproar caused by Ben Gurion's words was tremendous and under-

standable because he had accused the "diaspora" Jews of only rendering lip service to the Zionist cause, and this soon after a period during which they, especially the Jews in the U.S., have laboured mightily on behalf of the young Jewish state, particularly financially, over the years, amounting to billions and billions of dollars.

Such was the uproar that even Ben Gurion kept silent on this issue thereafter.

The "diaspora" Jews were and are particularly sensitive to the challenge or taunt in the words of Ben Gurion and President Weizman because the immigration figures of Jews into Palestine, and now Israel, prove irrefutably that even Zionist Jews were not drawn irresistibly to Zion, their "Promised Land" by the strength of their Zionist fervour. And that, instead, those figures increased only when the Jews in the "diaspora" were shoved, impelled, booted into the "Promised Land" by anti-Jewish forces in central and eastern Europe.

For many years and even centuries, Jews entered Zion only in thin trickles

even when the gates to the "Promised Land" were open or half-open; as for instance during the long period of Ottoman rule. The Ottomans did not favour Jews settling in Palestine, though they did not mind them settling in Turkey itself, because they brought in money and enterprise. They did not encourage Jews to go to Palestine not because they were Jews but because they were East European "agitators." In any case Jews were always able to bribe their way into Ottoman territories. (Indeed, the founding father of Israel, Theodor Herzl, used the "agitators" as an argument with the rulers of Europe to gain their support for a Jewish state — that such a state would drain off their dangerous Jewish agitators and terrorists).

There was no great rush of Jews into Palestine even when the gates were held wide open for them by British bayonets during the time of the post-World War I British mandate — which was the stated purpose of that mandate. The reluctance of Western Jews, like the present day members of the United Jewish Appeal, to go to Palestine/Israel

was and is perfectly understandable. They have prospered wherever they settled and did not and do not want to exchange their comfortable existence for a new and possibly much less comfortable existence.

Even the Jews of Eastern Europe who in the past led hard lives as peasants or artisans in Poland and Russia did not want to become Asian peasants toiling in a hot country like Palestine.

The idea of Ezer Weizman, whose uncle was the first president of Israel, of a total gathering of all Jews into Israel, is immensely dangerous because if all of world Jewry were to be squeezed into the narrow confines of Israel/Palestine they must inevitably expand — explode outwards — in wars over land and water.

And dangerous, too, for Israel because if all U.S. Jews emigrate to Israel that would mean the end of the American/Zionist lobby which at present maintains an iron grip on U.S. policy in the Middle East and keeps siphoning billions of dollars out of the U.S. and into Israel.

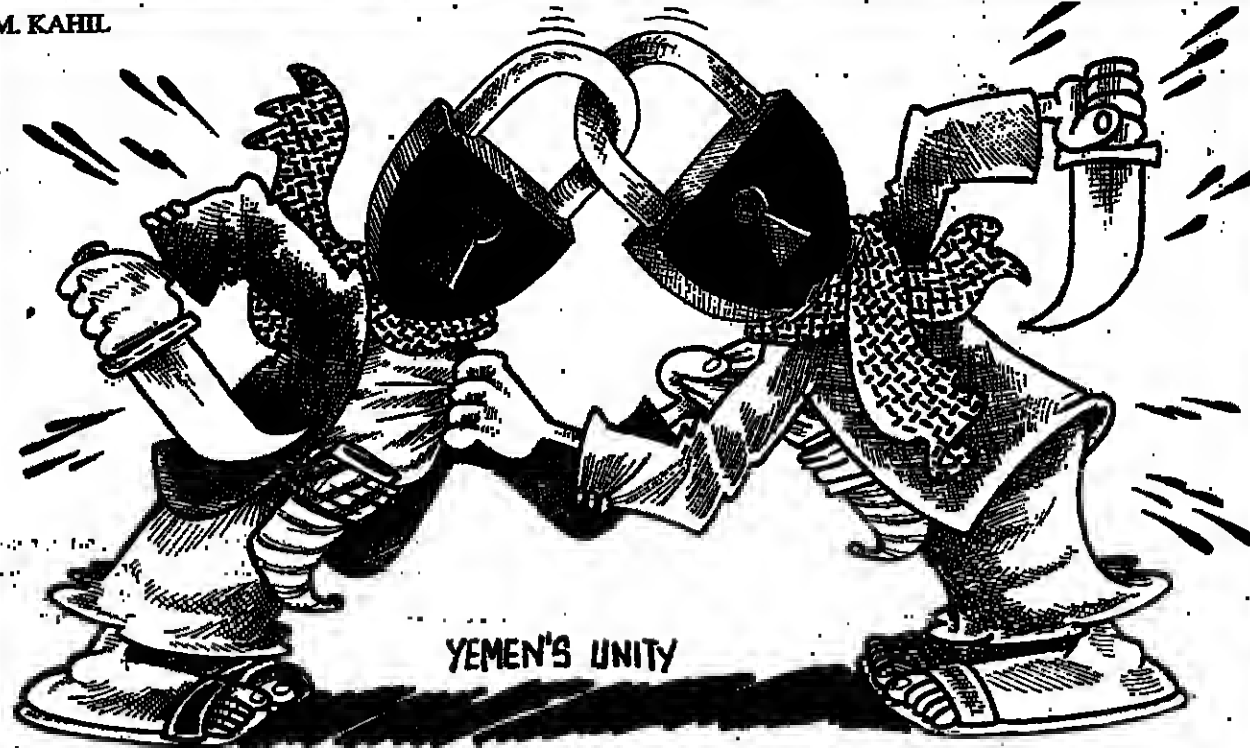
And there is one group of Jews that the Israelis should not and increasingly

do not want to immigrate into Israel — the zealots from the U.S. who are bigoted and violent, unlike the Jews from eastern Europe.

The Israeli-diaspora controversy started by Weizman's statement was kept alive by remarks from Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin and rising star in Israel's political ferment, when he said that "diaspora" organisations like the United Jewish Appeal should be wound up or given another focus. That they should help "diaspora" Jews to become better Jews where they are rather than to come Israeli Jews, who after 40 years did not need charity from abroad.

Weizman's calls for "diaspora" Jews to make a total commitment to Zionism by settling in the Jewish Zionist state and Beilin's calls for the severing of the umbilical cord between the "diaspora" and the state leave the "diaspora" Jews thoroughly confused. They now feel that Israel, and particularly its younger generation, is either taunting or despising them or is biting the hand that feeds it. This controversy, now out in the open, cannot but continue.

M. KAHIL



Peace dividend poses challenge for Syria

By Kate Dourian
Reuters

DAMASCUS — Syria is enjoying a mini-boom as a result of economic liberalisation policies but some wonder if it is ready for the economic challenges that peace in the region would bring.

"Syria is a bit worried about the peace process because it is not yet ready for the competition of open borders and free trade. They have some way to go yet," a diplomat said.

Another diplomat quoted a Syrian official as saying that Syria was aware that peace would bring an end to the political struggle and the beginning of an economic struggle.

After the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed the broad-based self-rule accord with Israel last September, Syria and Lebanon moved to set up a common market to stand up to Israeli penetration of Arab markets.

The Syrian economy is in the early stages of reaping the benefits of reforms that are gradually erasing the Soviet-style centralisation

and nationalisations of the 1960s.

The World Bank estimates the Syrian economy grew at an average rate of seven to eight per cent during 1990-1992, helped by a growing agricultural sector and a rise in oil production.

Syrian Finance Minister Khaled Mahayni said recently that oil exports accounted for 54 per cent of revenue. Oil production has quadrupled from 150,000 barrels per day (BPD) in the mid 1980s to 580,000 BPD at the end of 1992.

Defence spending accounts for roughly half of Syria's budget allocations. The latest budget passed by parliament this month for 1994 earmarked 44 per cent of revenue set at 144 million Syrian pounds (\$3.4 billion) for defence and security.

Syria's central bank governor said last year that Syria could save 75 per cent of government expenditure which it now allocates to defence if and when peace with Israel comes.

Recent monetary and foreign exchange reforms as well as a new investment law have revived private sector participation in the

economy. The ministry of trade says the private sector accounted for 60 per cent of total trade in 1993, compared with 30 per cent in mid-1980s.

But Syrian exporters who once relied on trade with the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe are finding it hard to compete in other markets.

A recent proposal to apply a single foreign exchange rate to imports and exports is expected to encourage more private sector exports. This would set the Syrian pound's value against the dollar at the "offshore rate" of 42 pounds.

There have been other moves to gradually abolish the multi-tiered exchange rate but there is still no date for a full flotation and a foreign exchange shortage persists.

Diplomats say another problem for the economy is that wealth is not evenly distributed despite outward signs of prosperity such as luxury cars and villas. This partly explains why the government is reluctant to abolish subsidies altogether.

The expansion of the industrial base and a population growing at a rate of 3.6 per cent annually have aggravated the power and water shortages that the country is now grappling with.

Economic growth has also brought inflationary pressures.

In recent weeks, the government granted public sector workers a 30 per cent pay rise and hiked the price of subsidised bread and fuel. Mr. Mahayni said this would lead to a public sector deficit.

Unemployment, running at seven per cent, is a potential problem. The World Bank estimates that up to 60 per cent of the population of nearly 15 million is under the age of 20. Strained relations with the West mean Syria still has no access to Western aid funds, which Damascus says it does not want anyway.

Washington has made clear to Damascus that a peace settlement with Israel would lead to deepening economic ties with the West and access to international financial institutions.

Power struggle throws Japanese politics into turmoil

By Pierre-Antoine Donnet
Agence France Presse

TOKYO — The resignation of Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata has prompted a bitter power struggle in Japan, with no clear winner in sight after a weekend of manoeuvres across the fragmented political chessboard.

The instability — in a country known for most of the postwar era as a bastion of political calm — threatens to worsen if the ruling coalition parties cannot unite and draw the Socialist Party back into the fold.

This would restore the parliamentary majority the coalition lost two months ago, but political commentators said Sunday there were few signs of progress towards unity.

The crisis, two weeks before the Group of Seven (G-7) summit of major industrialised nations in Naples, again puts Japan in an awkward situation with its main trading partners.

Though Mr. Hata will stay on as caretaker prime minister, Japan is likely — as before in the 1990s — to be represented in Naples by an inexperienced or politically fragile leader at a time when other G-7 countries will be looking to Tokyo for economic leadership in keeping with its industrial and financial might.

Despite assurances Mr. Hata gave U.S. President Bill Clinton in a telephone conversation on Sunday, the uncertainty is sure to slow negotiations between the two aimed at reducing Japan's huge surplus in trade with the U.S.

Japanese political commentators were unanimous in their view that party leaders would make quick efforts to select a new prime minister, possibly this week. That would limit the impact of the crisis on the economy, currently hit by a sharp and unwelcome rise in the value of the yen.

Mr. Hata is a contender to succeed himself. The 58-year-old holder of several senior government posts before becoming prime minister two months ago has made clear his hat is in the ring. But it is by no means certain he can get a majority in the lower house.

The Social Democratic Party, which precipitated the crisis by withholding backing from Mr. Hata, is now being courted by the coalition and the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), further to the right. Bigger than any single coalition party, the Socialists appear to have the final say on the shape of a new government.

For the next government to survive, analysts said, it

must be based on a durable alliance as no one party commands a majority in parliament. Mr. Hata presided over a minority cabinet after the Socialists quit the coalition on April 26.

Behind the political confusion, in many ways unprecedented since the 1950s, lies the unfinished realignment of party forces prompted partly by the end of the cold war and brought into the open by the election defeat of the LDP, which had previously ruled without serious challenge for 38 years.

Yomiuri Shimbun, the largest circulation newspaper, said a main cause of the crisis was the politicians' acted out of personal interest rather than those of the state. Parties had lost their identities and seemed incapable of setting out clear objectives, it said. The newspaper recalled that French 18th century philosopher Montesquieu had attributed the fall of the Roman Empire to similar causes and concluded: "The same situation prevails in Japan today and to describe our political chaos as 'confusion' is to underestimate its seriousness."

Personal animosities played a considerable role in the Socialists' departure from the coalition. They and members of another former coalition party called Sakigake particularly resent the influence of Ichiro Ozawa, a former LDP heavyweight, now secretary-general of Mr. Hata's Renewal Party.

They accuse him of being an authoritarian "pulling the strings in an anti-democratic way behind the scenes like the shoguns, who in past centuries ruled the country in the name of the emperor."

Socialist leader Tomiichi Murayama said his party was ready to form a new coalition, and even at the cost of defections from Socialist ranks, its partner could even be the LDP, which in its long reign was the target of bitter Socialist enmity.

LDP leader Yohei Kono indicated on Sunday he was open to the idea of joining a coalition with the Socialists and Sakigake.

Another scenario, according to observers, might involve the Hata coalition surviving with defectors from the two big parties outside his government, or even the disintegration of the LDP and the Socialist party. Both already contain competing factions.

Mr. Ozawa's strategy is based, they said, on building a powerful centrist majority consisting of the present array of coalition parties and defectors from the two large parties outside coalition ranks.

LETTERS

Why expand the 'concrete jungle'?

To the Editor:

I HAVE been watching with sadness and astonishment the changes being made to the Sarh Al Shaheed (the Martyrs' Memorial).

This wonderful elegant memorial, rising from the trees, has always been a distinctive and evocative tribute to all those who died serving their country.

Now these trees, which have stood for so many years, have been cut down to make way for cement and tarmac. I do not doubt the good intentions behind these changes, but it is amazing that, in these days of heightened awareness of our surroundings, this national treasure should be treated in this way. Why do we need to add to Amman's rapidly expanding concrete jungle?

What are the plans for the rest of the site?

I am sure many would join me in hoping that the planners will put in as many trees as possible.

This memorial is our heritage and we should be able to look at it with pride and pleasure to remind us of the sacrifices and the blood that was shed in honour and duty.

Patricia Rwattag, Salti,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Features

By Mark I. Porubcansky
The Associated Press

VUKOVAR, Croatia — Crumbling walls of brick and mortar testify to the grim cycles of Balkan history. They stand as tombstones over ideals of brotherhood and unity, monuments to ingrained fear and self-deception.

War that began with the secession of Slovenia and Croatia on June 25, 1991, has devoured the lives, hopes and fortunes of millions of Yugoslavs.

At least 210,000 are dead or missing, including thousands here in Vukovar. "Ethnic cleansing" and rape as weapons of war have been added to the 20th century's host of horrors.

This land is a tangle of victimisation, self-pity and self-justification. Victimised by history, by ideology, by their leaders, people have victimised each other during the past three years in the hope of avoiding more victimisation themselves.

The Balkans are the oft-trampled frontier between Byzantium and Rome, between the Islamic Ottomans and Christian Europe — the cradle of World War I and a battleground in World War II.

The people are given to a "sense of self-pity and narcissism," said Aleksa Djilas, scholar son of Milovan Djilas, the Communist-turned-dissident. "This self-pity is partly rooted in reality, but it's so exaggerated that it's pathological."

He described it as an "inability to look critically at one's own history."

If that is so, the consequences are numbing. Although Slovenia's secession was swift and relatively bloodless, at least 10,000 people were killed in Croatia. War still rages in Bosnia, where 200,000 are dead or missing.

Vukovar, once a city of 60,000, suffered the first extended siege. Shelling reduced much of the Croat-ruled town to piles of brick and mortar. U.N. guards now keep watch over what is suspected to be the mass grave of Croats killed after Serbs overran Vukovar in late 1991.

What makes today's Vukovar so typical — and terrifying — is the few thousand sad souls who remain, living on self-justification, monotony and no-



A Bosnian boy sees off his ill grandfather who is being evacuated by the U.N. to England from Sarajevo (AFP photo)

Yugoslav history lesson: 'do unto others' first

body-asked-me-anyhow hopelessness. Their attitudes mirror feelings all over former Yugoslavia.

To Dafina Trumic, an elderly Serb who lost two homes and even shared a cellar with Croats during the shelling, Vukovar's destruction was regrettable, but made perfect sense.

Parroted standard propaganda, she accused secessionist Croats of provoking trouble by attacking the Serb-dominated Yugoslav army, then the fifth-largest in Europe.

"The army had no choice but to defend itself," she declared.

The view that Serbs have nothing to apologise for is

rooted in five centuries of domination by Ottoman Turks, and the slaughter of tens of thousands by Croatian fascists in World War II.

Stevan Basara, a vendor in a barren open market, said the fighting in Vukovar was the result of radical Croats using symbols of the Croatian Fascist state. Other say Serbs lost jobs as Croatian nationalists took authority.

Behind these specific complaints stands a collective Serb national consciousness that has assumed the power of myth. When Serb politicians sounded the alarm of new repressions, Serbs acted to avoid

being victimised again.

As for the Croats, their view of history mirrors that of the Serbs. A sense of historical mistreatment is at the root of today's ideology. Croats suffered in Austria-Hungary, then in Serb-dominated Communist Yugoslavia. Endangered yet again, Croatia must assert itself to preserve itself.

Croatia's defence ministry estimates 3,000 Croats died in Vukovar and that 2,600 are still missing. Many thousands more are refugees.

"Maybe they can return," Mr. Basara said, "but in 200 years."

The Serbs who "won"

Vukovar are themselves victims: suffering and spiritless in surroundings that mock their quest for a greater Serbia.

A sunny spring noontime found the baroque centre of town nearly empty, except for a braying drunk wobbling on his motor bike.

Mr. Trumic and her husband, a retired army officer, live in someone else's apartment on monthly pensions equivalent to \$6 each. A duck costs \$3.60 eggs are 15 cents apiece.

On this day, Mrs. Trumic was trying to sell some dry noodles, a cheap plastic telephone and a pair of fake levis for extra cash.

In the nearby Vojvod-

janska Bank, the only action was a video game on tellers' computer screens. Dusty sports trophies before the madness began shared shelf space with gleaming shell casings from afterward.

The virulent nationalism that fed the horror in Vukovar and elsewhere was pumped through state-run media by Serb and Croat political leaders — some sincere, some cynically manipulating — public opinion.

On either side, the message was "an ideology of a nation that is in danger, combined with disregard for others — presenting one's own case as special

city of Tuzla, historian Salih Kulenovic said Slavic Muslims have had enough.

Many Muslims of eastern Bosnia, nearly all forced from their homes by Serbs, are descended from Muslims expelled from Western Serbia in the 19th century, he said.

"We'll never again allow anyone to change us... by force," Mr. Kulenovic said. "We didn't deserve this."

Suffering has strengthened the collective identity of Muslims and it appears that, as a result, another aggrieved nation is being created.

Bosnia's Croats also feel victimised. They and the Muslims ended a year of hostilities and agreed in March to form a united front against the Serbs.

Ivan Saric, a spokesman for Croats who were surrounded by Muslims in the central town of Vitez, did not deny that Croats committed atrocities, but also said his people were victims of a land grab by Muslims trying to make up for their losses to the Serbs.

"It was like a game of dominoes: Serbs, Muslims, and then it fell on the Croats," Mr. Saric said.

From caliphs to Communists, this is a land where people do what their leaders tell them.

"People are used to having some sort of authority," said Petar Matanovic, a Croat Roman Catholic priest in Tuzla.

"Sometimes it's Communist totalitarianism. Now it's national totalitarianism."

A middle-aged Croat grocer who identified himself only as Ivica struggled to understand why he was a refugee in Vitez. His blue eyes blazed and words tumbled over each other.

"The little people are not guilty of this, but nobody asked us. I know there are others on the other side who don't want it. But no one asked them, either."

The people of his village, including himself, weren't smart or quick enough to stop it.

"I could understand how my grandfather, who couldn't read, could be seduced to make war on someone," Ivica said. "But I can't believe people now would do it."

They did. The past and present live concurrently in the Balkans, and the future is hard to change.

Regent cautions against disorder in institutions

(Continued from page 1)

great anxiety and anticipation.

My dear colleagues,

Trusting that you have acquired vast experience in Arab public life, I believe that you realise quite well that the element of trust between Arab leaderships during the last decade of our modern Arab history has weakened.

We see that the present stage is characterised with estrangement, absence of consultations and lack of coordination, particularly now that the Arab Summit meetings have been indefinitely suspended.

This situation prevails among the Arabs at a time when we witness the disintegration of nations and the breakup of blocs of countries in the post-cold war era.

It seems that whoever was behind the disintegration process is uncertain how to put together a new world order, and I fear that the remnants would serve as landmarks of the future.

What makes things worse is the emergence of a phenomenon of internal splits within the Arab countries. If we examine the map of the Arab World, we would see signs of the coming splits and divisions within the fabric of the fragile Arab entities.

The alarm is sounded daily, warning of bloody confrontations between the ruler and the ruled and of the danger of death that has ended the lives of a million children.

The danger reaches far beyond the sounding of the alarm since we have started to witness a weakness in the national affiliation in the footsteps of the pan-Arab loyalty. This weakness has extended to pan-Arab organisations at the Arab League level and within its specialised organisations at a time when preparations are under way for next year's celebration of the Arab League's 50th anniversary.

The Arab League is the last living symbol of Arab and Islamic unity and therefore it is incumbent on us to work out a plan for our aspired-for future. We are not enemies of the future.

I am announcing all this 20 years after the Rabat summit conference and as our Palestinian brothers represented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have started creating a self-rule in Gaza and Jericho following arduous and tiring negotiations with an obstinate foe. The Palestinians are now facing a situation of want and they are in need of assistance. Our duty calls on us not to leave them alone suffering and struggling by themselves.

At a time when we witness a population growth, and a decline in resources we should live up to our commitment and trust and open a frank dialogue amongst ourselves, knowing well that we are all facing a difficult stage in which we will face social injustice sweeping the masses of the Arab Nation at all levels... the human rights level... dignity... the rule of the law...

This calls on us to transform our society into one of eligibility and self-sustaining. We should lay down the foundation of values and virtues to counter the forces of might and the tendency by people to make overnight gains.

We ought to take action, especially as we see that violence has become rampant at the expense of governance, and we see people shunning dialogue, shura and pluralism.

We are all sons of the same nation since the dawn of Islam and we all belong to this dear Arab Nation, which has borne the mission of Islam to all nations.

I am not revealing a secret by saying that frustration, pessimism and despair that have permeated our souls have formed a fertile ground for violence in the absence of social justice for all.

It is social justice that the masses seek and not social propaganda.

It is because of this situation that hopes are pinned on your forum to move us back from the edge of the precipice and to reestablish a base for hope and joy in a fruitful future in which all citizens can participate in the process of creativity and innovation, and affiliation to the Arab Nation.

Otherwise — God forbid — we will find ourselves only a segment of a region for which plans have already been laid to the detriment of our interests and our national identity.

Being the wisemen of the nation, you have no alterna-

tive but to face the challenge and to contribute positively in shaping the future.

It is a duty for all of us as groups and not individuals to act now because you all agree with me that all of our universities and academies should be made aware of their responsibilities.

The breach has widened and our enemies have been targeting our reputation, our history and identity as we see that our adversaries consider us as symbols of extremism and their future foes and enemies of democracy and that we are a liability to the world.

Displaced persons and refugees come mostly from the Muslim World whose coffers have been depleted and we are staggering under the yoke of foreign indebtedness.

The time factor is no more on our side and therefore it is your duty in this forum and other Arab fora to revive the Arab renaissance so that the Arab Nation would not remain a prisoner of today's tragedy. Otherwise, we would find ourselves divided.

We have to be objective, honest and committed. We should rise above the minor issues when addressing the nation's questions.

This can only be achieved through generous and dedicated work to ensure solidarity among Arab countries.

Should we face enormous difficulties in the course of performing our mission, then we have only to follow the good example of our Prophet who, whenever faced with adversity had always resorted to God for help.

Palestinian is shot dead

(Continued from page 1)

ing the charge is often used as a cover in personal feuds.

In Jerusalem, searches were launched after the assailant fled from the stabbing attack in East Jerusalem's Neve Yaacov neighbourhood to a nearby Arab village, Dair Al Barid, city police said.

Police were investigating whether the motive was criminal or due to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It was the first serious stabbing in the city since the start of Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho.

Jerusalem police commander Arieh Amit said the assailant ambushed the Israeli, surprising him from behind.

Hebron measures

Israel's army chief said on Tuesday the military had begun to implement recommendations by the Israeli inquiry into the Hebron mosque massacre on protecting Muslim worshippers.

"We have started to build the room in which weapons will be deposited (and) to deal with the subject of separate entrances for members of the two faiths" into the Ibrahim Mosque, Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak told Israel Radio.

Banning arms and segregating Jews and Arabs in the shrine holy to Islam and Judaism were two of the main recommendations of a report issued on Sunday on the Feb. 25 massacre by a Jewish settler of more than 30 Muslims at prayer.

Armed Israelis had been allowed to enter the shrine. Palestinians in the occupied territories are banned from carrying weapons.

Gen. Barak said a new closed-circuit television system would be installed at the site and partitions erected. "All these things take time to build. We are putting the finishing touches to the programme and will bring the matter to the defence minister and then to the government for approval," he said.

Red-Dead canal — a priority

(Continued from page 1)

would like to have a firm and clear idea of where Israel stood on the project. "True they have informed the multilateral group that it has been shelved, but they have not told us so on a bilateral level," he said.

The Jordanian proposal, prepared in utmost secrecy in the early 80s to counter Israel's Med-Dead canal proposal, calls for raising the level of the Dead Sea to its historic level, which has gone down to 406 metres from 392 metres below sea level.

Dr. Haddadin noted that it meant restoring the ecological features of the area. He pointed out that when the level of the Dead Sea is raised, the seepage from surrounding aquifers into the Dead Sea would stop. And the use of aquifers would be sustained.

But then that is only one aspect of the project.

The first part of the 270-kilometre linkage will be huge pipes tapping the Red Sea water running up 70 kilometres to the Gharandal divide, 220 metres above sea level. From that point, where the Dead Sea drainage basin begins, the water would flow through an open canal into the Dead Sea by gravity as opposed to the pumped flow through the pipelines.

Given the fact that the water will run through a terrain with a drop of nearly 620 metres (the 392-metre drop

to the Dead Sea added to the 220 metres at Gharandal) hydroelectric turbines will be installed on its way.

From Gharandal, the seawater can be run under gravity pressure for natural desalination through reversed osmosis to get sweet water without involving the use of power, Dr. Haddadin said.

The desalinated water will be pumped for domestic, industrial and watering livestock by Jordanians, Palestinians and Israelis under specific arrangements.

"We realise that Jordan, Israel and Palestine the riparians of the Dead Sea," and as such all the direct outputs of the projects will have to be shared among the three, Dr. Haddadin said.

Lagoons will be built on the sides of the pipeline/canal to store water for peaktime power generation. "You cannot store electric power but you can always store water to run turbines to produce energy," Dr. Haddadin pointed out.

The same lagoons could be used for aquaculture and for tourism development purposes, he added.

"The project will not be or cannot be discussed in isolation from the concept of integrated development," Dr. Haddadin stressed. "It will be part of a package for economic and social development in the Jordan Rift Valley."

Dr. Haddadin expects that the canal could bring in up to 1.8 billion cubic metres of

water into the Dead Sea every year for the first 10 years so as to meet the need to raise the level of the reservoir. Thereafter, the quantity could be reduced to one billion cubic metres.

While no definite figures are drawn up since they depend on the size of plants to be set up, Dr. Haddadin estimates that up to 40 per cent of this quantity could be desalinated if desired.

When Jordan drew up the study in the early 80s, it was estimated that it would cost JD360 million (about \$1 billion at the then exchange rates).

Dr. Haddadin said that at today's prices, the project could cost between \$2 billion and \$3 billion — "the price of two fighter jets every year for the next 10 years."

While no definite ideas have been crystallised on financing, Dr. Haddadin's comment appeared to imply that, with peace prevailing in the region, the U.S., which is extending more than \$3 billion in military aid alone to the region, could easily divert part of that assistance to the project.

One of the concerns expressed is how the project would affect the Arab Potash Company (APC) and its extraction facilities on the shores of the Dead Sea.

Dr. Haddadin said the project involves the raising of the dykes of the APC to protect the company's salt pans and carnallite pans against the higher water level.

Israel-PLO talks resume

(Continued from page 1)

Paris with Mr. Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Speculation about the date has been running high since Israel withdrew from Gaza and Jericho on May 18. Many Palestinians believe the 24-member self-rule government can only start functioning once Mr. Arafat takes charge on the ground.

Israel and the PLO agreed

Tuesday to form a committee to deal with the remaining problems in implementing self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. Among the disputed issues are the scope of prisoner releases and work permits for Palestinians in Israel.

General Danny Rothchild, Israel's coordinator of policy for the occupied lands, said he and Dr. Sbaath discussed an agenda and venue for detailed negotiations on transferring authority to the

Palestinians in the West Bank.

Initially, the handover was to be limited to five areas — education, health, welfare, tourism and taxation — but Gen. Rothchild did not rule out that other fields could be included.

"We made a real assessment on security, economical and other civilian areas," Dr. Sbaath told reporters.

More talks were expected next week.

Dr. Sbaath said it had been agreed to set up committees

on prisoners and refugees.

Some 7,000 Palestinians remain in jail despite the release of between 3,000 and 4,000 since self-rule began. Israel was set to free 5,000 prisoners by June 8 but many refused to renounce violence.

"We analysed the problems of the rest of the 5,000 prisoners still not released," Dr. Sbaath said.

The Palestinian businessman said the question of control of border crossings into Gaza and Jericho had also been raised.

Saleh warns against intervention

(Continued from page 1)

harming us and interfering in our internal affairs," Mr. Saleh said.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states have tilted towards the south largely because of lingering resentment over Yemeni sympathy with Iraq in the 1990-91 Gulf war. Saudi Arabia is also locked in a border dispute with Yemen dating back to their 1930s war.

In Amman, a Yemeni parliamentary delegation accused Moscow of supplying

weapons to southern forces and Saudi Arabia of financing the deals.

"Some of our neighbouring countries are paying the bills for the supply of arms to the south by Russia," said Mohammad Naji, one of the three members on the delegation.

In response to reporters' questions, Mr. Naji added that countries he referred to included Saudi Arabia.

On the warfront, northern Yemeni forces battered Aden's defences on Tuesday in a fresh bid to cutoff and

control some of their southern foes' key facilities, officials said.

"It has been like this for the past few days... they advance and we push them back. They are trying it again now," the official told Reuters in Aden.

Living conditions inside the port city are deteriorating, with residents trying to dig wells to ease an increasingly acute water shortage (see page 2).

The focus of the northern assaults is a coastal road leading west from Aden to a suburb called Little Aden,

Bloodied but unbowed, central banks still lurk

LONDON (R) — Financial authorities other than the Bank of Japan have kept a low profile on the foreign exchanges since Friday's mauling, but some traders detect the hand of central banks in the dollar's rise since Monday.

"Friday was a good example of how not to intervene to support a currency," Philip Shaw, group economist at merchant bank Union PLC, said Tuesday, referring to the \$3 billion of dollar-buying by 17 central banks.

"But I wouldn't be surprised if the dollar has been getting some covert support from central banks," he added.

The dollar was up a pfennig and half a yen from Monday's European close at 1.5890 marks and 100.50 yen on Tuesday.

Friday's coordinated round of high-profile central bank dollar-buying was a dismal failure and within an hour the dollar was back below levels seen before the intervention

took place. The intervention failed because traders were either square or only slightly short of dollars. If the banks want to spring a "bear-trap" they have to wait until the market is confident enough to take out bigger short dollar positions, analysts said.

While a fresh round of visible central bank action is possible ahead of the July 8-10 Group of Seven (G-7) meeting, some analysts said the dollar is likely to hold around current levels for now.

They also noted that at end of the half-year traders will be anxious to square positions and given the threat of central bank intervention, doubly so.

"It's not worth being a hero in this kind of market," said David Coleman, treasury adviser at Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. "But he thought the central banks might decide to keep out of the market for the time being. 'Sometimes the threat

of intervention is more potent than actually taking the plunge and doing it."

The foreign exchange market is awaiting a raft of potentially market-moving news next week with the U.S. Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), Bundesbank and (G-7) meetings all due.

"Directives coming out of the G-7 meeting will probably emphasise the need for stable exchange rates and say that G-7 will work together to that end," union's Shaw said. "But whether that would have any lasting impact remains to be seen."

While some believe the dollar will remain becalmed ahead of G-7, others are not so sure.

"This is the calm before the storm," said Adrian Cunningham, senior currency economist at UBS. "I reckon the market will test key resistance on the upside against both the mark and the yen and then take another crack on the downside."

He said Friday's intervention appeared half-hearted as far as the Bundesbank's role was concerned and felt the central banks had only limited objectives.

He also thought a rise in U.S. interest rates at the FOMC meeting and/or a cut in official rates at the Bundesbank meeting was unlikely so the dollar would again move lower.

"As a result, before the end of the week we will see selling pressure coming through and that will be met by intervention and much more aggressive verbal intervention by the U.S. authorities," he added.

Dollar slides again

The dollar slid again against the yen Tuesday afternoon on the London foreign exchange market, despite intervention by the Bank of Japan that had strengthened the greenback Monday night on the Asian market.

The greenback, which rose to around 100.75 yen in the morning, stood in late afternoon below the 100-yen barrier again, at 99.95, its Monday evening rate in London. On Monday, the dollar had fallen to a record low against the yen since the war, at 99.40 yen in Singapore.

Against the mark, the dollar stood in late afternoon at 1.579 marks after rising as far as 1.59 in the morning, but the latest level was slightly better than the Monday evening figure of 1.5765 marks to the dollar in London. On Monday, the greenback fell to a 14-month low of 1.5750 marks to the dollar.

Analyst Brian Hilliard at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull said the dollar's renewed weakness could push the central banks into further intervention, following their failure to get the dollar higher for any more than a brief time on Friday.

"I don't think it's going to make any difference if they intervene or not," he said. And the greenback might set new record lows later this week, he added.

AMF to link six Arab stock markets by September

ABU DHABI (R) — The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) will link six Arab stock markets in the first stage of a project to facilitate inter-Arab investment and privatisation, its chairman said Sunday.

The AMF will link stock markets of Kuwait, Jordan, Bahrain, Tunisia, Oman and Morocco by September and list other Arab markets after that to boost inter-Arab investment, AMF Chairman Jassem Al Manai said in a report to the board of directors.

"One of our main projects... will be to develop Arab financial markets, to link and tie them together. Our network is on the verge of coming onstream to provide more investment chances and opportunities for investment," Mr. Manai told reporters after the meeting.

Mr. Manai said the AMF's Arab markets database was one method it is using this year to boost Arab economies, including linking loans to economic reforms and de-

veloping inter-Arab trade. It will list daily trading activity, changes in share prices, and rules governing foreign investment and how Arab investors can participate in joint projects.

According to AMF figures, the six markets list 377 companies with a combined capitalisation of more than \$21 billion.

The network will "facilitate investment opportunities in the countries and encourage information about potential joint projects to flow between Arab investors," Mr. Manai said.

AMF figures show Arab domestic investments are low compared to external holdings.

Arab securities markets list 1,133 with total capitalisation of \$50 billion. In comparison Arab private sector foreign assets exceeded \$670 billion in 1992, an AMF report said in January.

Total capitalisation amounted to less than 13 per cent of Arab gross domestic product, it said.

"Arab equity markets are way behind in size compared to the rest of the world," Ahmad Abi Surour, head of the AMF financial markets division, said in the report.

The AMF is also working with the International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank group, to advise Arab countries on developing their capital markets, Mr. Manai said.

Mr. Manai said in March that the AMF network will encourage privatisation in Arab countries by assessing their "ability to absorb the financial assets of public enterprises."

"This rationale is particularly relevant in a number of Arab countries... more recently oil producing Arab countries due to lower oil revenues," he said.

Mr. Manai said he also told the board of directors that the AMF, which groups all Arab League countries, would seek to recover arrears from Iraq, Sudan and Somalia.

Dollar slump will not help oil demand — analysts

LONDON (R) — A slumping dollar means cheaper oil on the dollar-denominated world oil market but a decline in the fortunes of the U.S. currency is unlikely to have any short-term impact on oil demand, industry analysts say.

The dollar hit successive post-war lows against the yen Monday and also weak against the mark, although showing a steadier tone Tuesday.

"From what I've seen in the past, currency movements are only likely to make an impact over the medium to long term," said Kleinwort Benson's senior oil analyst.

Crude oil prices have risen almost 30 per cent since the end of the first quarter 1994 when prices for world benchmark Brent Blend were languishing at five-year lows around \$13 a barrel.

But valued against the yen, oil prices have risen half as much, by 14 per cent, and

against the mark by 17 per cent.

Analysts say the recent rise in oil prices since the turn of the year wipes out the impact of a weaker dollar on demand outside the United States.

"Currency weakness only offsets a small proportion of the rise in oil prices over recent months," said Jeremy Hudson of Lehman Brothers Securities.

Oil traders will probably take the opportunity to increase profits on refined products rather than cut prices, which could have boosted demand, industry analysts say.

"(The dollar fall) probably will not have any great effect in the short term because companies will be grateful for some strength on marketing margins," said Mr. Hudson.

The impact of currency movements also is heavily diluted by the influence of heavy taxation on retail petroleum products in consuming nations, said Mr. Hud-

son. Taxation accounts for about 77 per cent of the price of lastline in Germany and 57 per cent in Japan.

Currency changes "pretty much get lost in the wash," Mr. Hudson said.

At the competitive margins of the energy sector in Europe — where fuel oil competes with coal and natural gas for a share of the power-generating market — dollar weakness might benefit oil consumption slightly, said Mr. Hudson.

While a weak dollar means oil-consuming nations will pay less for their crude, producers in turn will in most cases earn less for crude and petroleum product exports once sales in dollars are exchanged into domestic currencies.

"There's no doubt that dollar devaluation is bad news for oil producers," said Mr. Varzi. "But it has to be a big fall over a long period to be very bad news."

Mr. Varzi said it was too early to tell whether the impact of a weak dollar might help preempt any move by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries later in the year to raise oil output quotas to meet growing demand for crude.

OPEC meets in mid-November and if prices are sufficiently strong may consider raising production allocations for the beginning of next year.

In the longer term, Japanese demand might be the first to benefit from a weak dollar because consumption there is centred more in the industrial sector and less in transport fuels, said Mr. Hudson. Taxation on heavy fuel for industry makes up a far smaller proportion of end-user pricing than lighter petroleum products — 16 per cent in Germany and 3.5 per cent in Japan.

Venezuela imposes currency controls

CARACAS (AFP) — President Rafael Caldera announced Monday that he was suspending constitutional guarantees to impose currency and price controls in an effort to stem the country's spiraling financial crisis.

Mr. Caldera, who took office Feb. 2, said in a radio broadcast that he was suspending six constitutional guarantees, including property rights and freedom of movement and economic exchanges.

The move comes after a wave of bank failures — including the country's second largest, Banco Latino — a precipitous drop in the bolivar and a series of street demonstrations which left one dead last week.

The guarantees on economic exchanges were sus-

pended in February after Mr. Caldera's inauguration but were reinstated three months later in order to grease the wheels of the new economic plan aimed at cutting the \$6 billion deficit.

Mr. Caldera said the measures included price controls on basic goods, issuing vouchers for food and transport to cushion the hardest hit, regulations on financial institutions and steps to help small and medium-sized businesses.

He added that the currency controls were aimed at bringing down the country's astronomical interest rates which have reached 86 per cent.

Mr. Caldera stressed in his address that the once oil-rich South American country still held out attractive business

opportunities.

"Everyday investments come in and we can offer the necessary guarantees: A stable currency, reserves that won't be exhausted and a stable government," he said.

He acknowledged he had initially promised not to impose currency controls, but noted that the financial crisis and rumours of political instability called for drastic measures to avoid depletion of the country's reserves and further devaluation of the bolivar.

Seven banks failed follow-

ing Banco Latino's Jan. 14 demise, costing the government \$4.3 billion in bailout funds to date. The congress has approved another \$2.3 billion to pay depositors.

The bolivar has fallen 50 per cent against the dollar since January while inflation has continued to soar.

The economic turmoil has been accompanied by growing unrest in cities around Venezuela, sparking fears of political instability and resurrecting the spectre of the 1989 riots which left more than 300 dead.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 29, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You can easily put your personal affairs on a more solid footing and gain added good will from friends and business associates alike. Deceptive influences are in effect as the evening approaches.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A good time to complete projects which need work on them and to gain benefits therefrom in the future. Be wise about handling any problem.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Contact those who can assist you in getting involved matters working more efficiently. Gain the support you need to proceed on a new project.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Contact higher-ups who can assist you in gaining the backing you need for a worthy project. Show that you have poise to complete any assignment.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A new set of conditions can make your regular routines more efficient and profitable in the days ahead for you and your loved ones.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Listen to what a business expert has to suggest but use your own judgment when handling personal responsibilities which must be completed.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Cooperate

more with associates and gain mutual benefits. Attend social affairs in the evening and have a fine time with your loved ones.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Bring your best talents to the attention of high-ups who can help you to commercialise on them. Dress in fine style for those in charge.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put those ideas to work which will give you a chance to express your finest talents. Strive for increased happiness in your personal life.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Try to understand the wants of close ties and then you will know to please them. Avoid a jealous person who is resentful of you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Contacting regular allies and coming to a better understanding is wise now. Establish more efficiency at your regular duties.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) If you take time to study your monetary position well, you will know exactly how to improve it. Use more care in motion while on the highway.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be open to favours from others to help you. Make sure business matters are handled well and you will be successful.

Malta transforms economy in bid for EU membership

VALETTA (R) — Malta is undergoing an economic transformation as it bids for full membership of the European Union (EU), but Prime Minister Edward Fenech-Adami fears internal EU squabbles could yet thwart his country's ambitions.

The tiny Mediterranean island hopes to have met all major EU demands on accession by 1996, but Mr. Fenech-Adami told Reuters that even then admission to the world's most powerful economic bloc was not guaranteed.

"It has been pointed out repeatedly that there are problems within the union, and bickering about the institutional set up so we can't be

over optimistic," M. Fenech-Adami said.

With the EU poised to swell from 12 to 16 nations from 1995, some countries are reluctant to let in a proliferation of smaller states, such as Malta and fellow Mediterranean aspirant Cyprus, each with their own commissioners and voting rights.

"We should not be asked to wait because the union has its own troubles," said Mr. Fenech-Adami, who has governed the island since 1987 at the head of the centre-right Nationalist Party.

"It's in everybody's interest that this strategic island gets integrated into Europe," he added.

Despite the uncertainty,

Mr. Fenech-Adami is still pressing ahead with a reform programme to bring Malta's economy in line with EU specifications.

Indirect value added tax (VAT) is expected to be introduced from the start of next year, with import tariffs on European goods being dropped and currency exchange controls relaxed.

Meanwhile a new banking law is passing through parliament, which will abolish offshore accounts and create similar banking conditions for locals and foreigners alike.

"Almost everything will be in place by 1996," said Mr. Fenech-Adami, speaking in

his 16th century Valletta office, a former residence of the Castilian knights of Malta.

The government is also gradually relaxing its grip on the state sector. One small bank was privatised earlier this year and one of the other island's two major banks is slated for sell-off in the near future," Mr. Fenech-Adami said.

Preparations are also being made for the eventual sale of Malta's modernised telecommunications company.

The Maltese economy, heavily dependent on tourism, has boomed in the 1990s, growing annually by an average eight per cent

over the last five years, with unemployment and inflation hovering around four per cent.

"There's no reason why the economy should now slow down. On the contrary some say... it could overheat, with too much being done in a short space of time," Mr. Fenech-Adami said.

The prime minister has made accession to the EU his principal policy aim, but not everyone on the island wants to see Malta fall under the influence of Brussels.

The country's main opposition left-wing Labour Party has called for the island to seek closer trade ties with the union but draw back from full

membership. Mr. Fenech-Adami rejects this suggestion saying Malta, which lies off the southern tip of Sicily, should have a place at the heart of decision making in Europe.

During the 1960s Malta's advances to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) were rebuffed. In the 1970s the spurned island appeared to turn its back on the West, building close ties with Libya and China.

"These policies were not agreeable for Europe," Mr. Fenech-Adami said, "it would be very short sighted now if the European Union ignored Malta's claims," he added.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arghit

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CALLI

THANC

CENTIE

ENGLIS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SYLPH ENACT TORRID DRAGON

Answer: Why the medical student had trouble studying the stomach — IT WAS HARD TO DIGEST

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

THE Daily Crossword by Harold A. Counts

ACROSS

1 Roger of home runs

6 Game fish

10 Golf hazard

14 — France

15 Spotted cat

16 Get under one's skin

17 Cuddlish ink

18 Lotteries

19 Chills and fever

20 Sn. and

21 Desk reading light

24 — —, Fla.

25 Gentle creature

27 China

28 Type of Java

29 Correspondence

30 Money bonus

32 Deception

36 Humder of allures

40 Evergreen

41 Between — and a hard place

42 Hag

43 Lines

45 Buds

46 Shower

47 Swamp

48 Certain pupil

53 Accomplished

56 Spin

57 — — beer

58 White with age

61 Village of Palestine

62 Indo-European

63 — off (impry)

64 Herd

66 Pool shot

7 Like the Helud

8 Rational

9 Reiter change

10 County seat of Kerry

11 Latvian city

12 Styptic

13 Chip

22 Rhythmic

23 Criggy tale

25 Interrupting sound

26 Discharge

27 Steps

28 TV's "Kate and —"

29 Upright

30 Drunch

31 Old "learning" song

32 Reassured

33 Joyce Carol —

35 Loudness unit

38 Sidel

39 Brag

41 Eastern nurse

42 City in England

43 Heat a craving

45 H. Rider

46 Agatha novel

47 Aztec

48 US president

49 Tensort

50 Farm measure

51 Peruse

52 Caroled

54 Some bank

55 Unit of force

56 — — — — —

57 — — — — —

58 — — — — —

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U.S. Coast Guard picks up 1,300 Haitians; surge biggest in 2 years

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agence) — U.S. Coast Guard cutters intercepted 1,330 Haitian boat people at sea Monday in one of the busiest days since refugees began leaving Haiti in droves following a 1991 military coup.

The new exodus comes in the wake of President Bill Clinton's more-liberal policy toward Haitian refugees, which many expected would encourage more desperate Haitians to try to escape their violent, dirt-poor homeland. The new policy took effect 11 days ago.

Monday's figure — combined with 786 Haitians apprehended over the weekend — signalled a huge jump in refugees and dramatically increases pressure on the Clinton administration to quickly resolve Haiti's festering political crisis.

U.S. embassy officials were stunned at the tide. "It's hard to believe," embassy

spokesman Stanley Schrager said. "We're very concerned."

The Haitians intercepted since Friday nearly equal the 2,239 apprehended in all of 1993.

In Washington, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) said the 1,330 refugees were being sent to the hospital ship USS Comfort, which is serving as an INS asylum processing centre in Kingston Harbour, Jamaica.

The Comfort has about 400 Haitians from previous boat intercepts and can hold about 1,000, said INS spokesman Duke Austin. The new influx, he said, "is certainly going to be stretching the capabilities."

Even before Monday's totals were announced, Cmdr. David Breuninger, Coast Guard liaison at the U.S. embassy in Port-Au-Prince, said he expected the surge to

continue because the rate of asylum requests granted offshore is more than five times that for Haitians petitioning at U.S. consular offices in Haiti.

"Eventually the people of Haiti will know what the acceptance rate is, and the outflow will increase," he said.

Fears of a flood of Haitian asylum-seekers were a factor in former President George Bush's decision to send boat people back immediately, a policy Mr. Clinton continued after his election.

But Mr. Clinton changed the policy as of June 16, allowing all boat people to get a hearing aboard a U.S. vessel offshore to see if they are fleeing political persecution from Haiti's military-installed government.

Not counting the 1,330 picked up Monday, 1,148 Haitians had been intercepted since the new system went

into effect, U.S. State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said in Washington.

Coast Guard Petty Officer Jeff Hall in Miami said the 1,330 picked up Monday were mostly in small boats, although one carried more than 250 people.

Meanwhile, the extravagant tastes, parties and ultra-right political views of Haiti's wealthy elite show no signs of abating in spite of tough sanctions targeting them and the military government they back.

Haiti's factories have closed and its formal economy has collapsed, but the city's top restaurants are still in business and the country's fabulously wealthy have not forgotten how to play.

Their children fill the trendiest bars and clubs in Port-au-Prince, the affluent suburb that looks down from a mountain-side over the sprawling slums of Port-Au-Prince.



Dozens of Haitians scuffle to receive food at a local church-sponsored distribution point for the poor in downtown Port-Au-Prince (AFP photo)

S. Africa braces for more pollution from mystery sinking off Cape Town

CAPE TOWN (R) — Civil defence agencies braced Tuesday for renewed oil pollution from the mystery sinking off Cape Town of the Chinese bulk carrier Apollo Sea with 36 crew on board and for new gale-driven floods.

Debris bearing the name of the Panama-registered 131,000 tonne Apollo Sea washed up on the Cape west coast Monday, confirming fears that the ship sank hours after sailing from Saldanha Bay, 100 kilometres north of Cape Town, eight days ago.

"We're now pretty sure that the ship has sunk," Department of Transport Sea

Rescue coordinator Captain William Demier told Reuters.

Anton Moldan, who is coordinating control of the city's worst pollution disaster, said more oil was bubbling to the surface southwest of Dassen Island, a crucial nesting ground near Cape Town of the endangered jackass penguin.

"Our patrol plane saw oil bubbling up there last night and they are up there again to take another look now. The oil flow is continuing," he said.

Moldan said three pollution-control vessels were on standby to sail from Cape Town as soon as the

eight-day-long winter storm moderates enough to allow them to operate.

Heavy rains continued to deliver misery to thousands of blacks living in shantytowns of wood, tin and plastic shacks on the flatlands east and south of the city.

Red Cross spokesman John Stone said volunteers worked through the night to deliver dry clothes and blankets to shack dwellers drenched by torrential rains since Sunday.

"It's not so much a question of shelter. The problem is that these people have no dry clothes or bedding," he said.



Residents of the Crossroads squatter camp break in the storms which continue to lash transport a load of firewood home, during a Cape Town (AFP photo)

Clinton wants new policy on Africa

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton said Monday that with all the dismal news from Rwanda and other African nations, it is important to stress positive developments on the continent, such as the ending of apartheid in South Africa.

"Let's remind people that there are things to hope about, as well as things to fear," Mr. Clinton told the first White House conference on Africa.

"There are too many nations in Africa where tyranny still drowns out opposition in human rights. But as we meet today, more than a dozen African nations are preparing for elections," he told experts from government and international organisations that focus on Africa.

He cited South Africa's peaceful elections and transition as cause for hope and noted the promise and progress in Senegal, Mali, Namibia, Botswana, Benin, Malawi, Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Mr. Clinton and Vice President Al Gore said the discussions and suggestions raised at the two-day conference will be used in formulation of future U.S. policies toward African nations.

"I do know we need a new policy," said Mr. Clinton, adding it will be based on the idea "that we should help the nations of Africa identify and solve problems before they erupt."

He said the conference will be "the beginning of a new American commitment to a better future for all our people."

"Maybe the most important thing I can do to work with you... is to do whatever the president can do to explain to the American people, of whatever race, region or background, why Africa matters to all of us and to our common future," he said.

The conference was designed in part to give higher visibility to concerns of Africa, especially in the wake of

the ill-fated U.S. military raid in Somalia that left 18 U.S. soldiers dead and prompted a more gun-shy approach to commitment of troops.

Mr. Clinton said U.S. military involvement in Somalia, which began as a food-delivery protection mission, "was a well-motivated and good thing to do that saved hundreds of thousands of lives, but which was presented, I think quite honestly but wrongly, to the American people as something that could be done on a purely humanitarian basis."

"There is no such thing as a purely humanitarian enterprise, except in cases of natural disaster," he said. Intervention in Somalia came during a civil war.

After some pre-conference controversy, participants gave the event high marks, especially in terms of putting a high-level focus on a region that many believe has been long neglected by the United States.

Russia, NATO outline partnership plans

MOSCOW (R) — Former cold war foes Russia and NATO announced plans Tuesday to work closely together at all levels and turn their new partnership into a lasting friendship.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and NATO's military commander in Europe General George Joulwan outlined new confidence-building moves to repair decades of mistrust between their military camps.

Gen. Joulwan's visit to Moscow, his first as supreme allied commander in Europe, came on the heels of Russia signing NATO's partnership for peace scheme for closer military links.

"We don't want just to be partners. We want to be friends and you get that by interaction at every level," the U.S. general told a news conference held jointly with Gen. Grachev.

Gen. Grachev said he had agreed with Gen. Joulwan that the two sides would begin talks at expert level in the

next few days to map out a programme of joint events for this year and next.

Some 30 joint measures reflecting the new military entente between the two former cold war adversaries were planned for this year with more to be drafted for next year, he said. He gave no details of what these measures might be.

"I am of the opinion that very soon the practical implementation of the partnership for peace deal will allow us to establish a real partnership between Russia and NATO," Gen. Grachev said.

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev signed the partnership for peace scheme with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation on June 22 after disputes ranging from Bosnia to arms control and bitter complaints by Moscow that its concerns and big power status was being ignored.

The partnership scheme — Russia is the 21st country to

sign — provides for joint military training, exercises and defence planning though it offers no security guarantees.

Gen. Joulwan said that given Russia's size and strength he expected Moscow to present a detailed set of proposals for joint action which would go to the alliance's political authorities for consideration.

Gen. Grachev said the two sides would have a permanent representative at each other's military headquarters.

An emergency "hot line" would be set up between the Russian Defence Ministry and NATO's military headquarters (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium, for quick contact in the event of crisis.

Apart from contact at headquarters level there were also plans for military cooperation to be extended lower down the chain of command to the level of military districts, Gen. Grachev said.

CIA warns of nuclear threat from Russian gangs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Criminal trade in Soviet nuclear weapons threatens an "era of anarchic proliferation," but there is no evidence it has happened yet, the CIA director told the Congress.

"We cannot rule out the possibility that organised crime groups will be able to obtain and sell nuclear weapons or weapons grade materials," James Woolsey said at a hearing in the House of Representatives on the so-called Russian mafia.

He said intelligence officers are especially concerned that Iran, Iraq, Libya or North Korea may try to acquire atomic weapons built by the former Soviet Union, through Russia's booming organised crime syndicates.

Mr. Woolsey said Russian intelligence officers arrested three men earlier this month who were caught with three kilograms (6.6 pounds) of enriched uranium, apparently obtained from a janitor at an unspecified nuclear facility near Moscow. He did not specify if this was weapons-grade uranium.

He said there also have been several cases of low-enriched uranium, medical isotopes and other materials related to the Soviet nuclear programme, offered for sale on the black market.

But he added: "To date we have not detected any nuclear warheads or significant quantities of weapons-grade materials being smuggled out of the former Soviet Union."

The transactions of low-grade nuclear material cannot be taken lightly, Mr. Woolsey said, but he said they do not pose a proliferation threat because they cannot be used for nuclear weapons.

"We have no evidence that Russian organised crime groups are supplying or even attempting to supply terrorist groups with highly destructive weapons," he said.

Charles to admit adultery for 1st time — TV

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prince Charles is to admit publicly for the first time that he was unfaithful to his now estranged wife Princess Diana in an interview to be broadcast this week, British television said.

The heir to the throne has never previously commented on rumours he had an adulterous affair with Camilla Parker Bowles, the wife of an army brigadier, but royal officials have not denied them.

Independent Television News said that in a two and a half hour documentary about his life to be shown on commercial television Wednesday, Prince Charles admits being unfaithful to the glamorous and highly popular princess he married in 1981.

Asked if he had been faithful to Princess Diana, Prince Charles is reported to have replied: "Yes... until it became clear that the marriage had irretrievably broken down."

The makers of the programme itself, aimed to mark the 25th anniversary of the prince's investiture as Prince of Wales, have remained tight-lipped about the contents of the interview.

The couple's separation was announced in parliament in December, 1992.

Britain's tabloid press claimed the union had been a disaster from the start and that Prince Charles, now 45, had been seeing Mrs. Parker-Bowles up to and after the wedding ceremony.

The extent of the attachment was revealed in 1993 with the publication of taped telephone conversations, purportedly of Prince Charles and Camilla in intimate exchanges.

Royal aides have declined to comment on a reported rift between Prince Charles and his mother Queen Elizabeth over reforming the historic links between the crown and the Church of England.

British newspapers said at the weekend that in the same television interview, Prince Charles suggests loosening the ties between the monarch and the established church.

Clinton revamps cabinet ahead of Congress battles

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton has revamped his top White House staff to strengthen his hand ahead of landmark legislative battles in Congress that will make or break his administration.

By naming David Gergen as special adviser on diplomatic affairs for both the president and Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Mr. Clinton has also sought to shore up his battered image in matters of foreign policy.

Mr. Gergen, a Republican who was called in May to put the White House in order and who has since served as general adviser to Mr. Clinton, has made it clear that his expertise lies not in foreign policy but in selling policy issues to the public, as he showed under former President Ronald Reagan.

Monday's shakeup, the second after William Perry replaced Les Aspin at the Pentagon in January, was also meant to eliminate the errors and inefficiencies that have plagued the White House in the past 18 months.

In replacing White House Chief of Staff Thomas "Mac" McLarty with Office of Management and Budget Director Leon Panetta, Mr. Clinton has eased his childhood friend from a problematic post he was ill suited for from the very start.

Mr. Clinton told a press conference at the Oval Office that McLarty had been wanting to resign for a month. "He has been and will continue to be my closest and most trusted personal adviser," Mr. Clinton added.

Unlike the tightly-run administrations of former Republican Presidents

Reagan and George Bush, Mr. McLarty as chief of staff lacked a firm hand and his style was too laid back.

That only added to the disarray of the Clinton White House that was plagued from the outset with too many loose cannons.

The inexperience of the White House staff cost Mr. Clinton dearly last year when his far-reaching economic programme barely made it through Congress despite an intense lobbying effort by the White House cohorts.

Now, Mr. Clinton faces five uphill months in Congress, with battles over health care and welfare that more than likely will determine his chances of reelection.

Mr. Clinton's pet project that proposes to extend health care to some 40 million Americans currently lacking it faces stiff opposition from a majority of legislators who wonder where the funding will come from.

The president's welfare reform and anti-crime legislation also face money problems in Congress.

Also pending are a retraining programme for the unemployed and the recently concluded General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade accord, which calls for lower tariffs but cannot go into effect until a \$14-billion bill to cover for estimated production losses is passed.

In his new post as presidential adviser, Mr. Clinton said, Mr. McLarty will be in charge of pushing GATT, health and welfare reforms through Congress.

Mr. McLarty also will focus on preparing for Asian and inter-American summits later this year.

Old feuds continue in S. Africa's Zulu heartland

DURBAN, South Africa (R) — Ancient feuds in South Africa's violent Zulu heartland will continue despite the peaceful transition to black majority rule elsewhere in the country, political analysts say.

Political violence has declined markedly in KwaZulu-Natal region since the country's first all-race elections swept ANC leader Nelson Mandela into power — but feuds between rival Zulu clans show no sign of abating in the post-apartheid era.

"Faction fighting is as old as history," police spokesman Bala Ndoo told Reuters.

"You cannot rule out revenge. Even if one person was killed 10 years ago, you cannot rule out the revenge factor."

Bloodshed has stained KwaZulu-Natal, home to many of South Africa's 8.5 million Zulus, the largest ethnic group, since British colonisation of the region in 1840.

In the early 19th century Zulu warrior-king Shaka built his nation into a powerful force in southern Africa. In 1879 Zulu warriors armed with spears and shields

crushed a British force at Isandhlwana.

Bloodshed resurfaced over the past decade, when political rivalry between Nelson Mandela's African National Congress and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party killed more than 10,000 blacks.

Scores of blacks were killed in rural areas among the green hills and sugar plantations of KwaZulu-Natal during the past year, many of them in revenge attacks sparked by earlier killings, police said.

University of Natal anthropologist Mary De Haas said feuds between rival Zulu clans have copied over years over land, resources, women and cattle.

"The people waging the faction fighting are among the most conservative and poorest in South Africa," she said.

Police say some of the bloodiest violence takes place during faction fights between rival clans.

Warriors armed with assault rifles, spears and hatchets and "protected" by a witchdoctor's battle medicine tear into each other. The dead are left for police to collect.

Ms. De Haas said many faction fights have become political in recent years with the intensification of political rivalry between the ANC and Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha.

She predicted ANC-Inkatha rivalry would continue over the next five years before the next round of elections due in 1999.

"In the immediate future there will be a lot of competition for (the loyalty of) the Zulu nation," Ms. De Haas said.

Inkatha won the KwaZulu-Natal region in the April general election, sparking ANC claims of electoral fraud. Nationally Inkatha polled slightly more than 10 per cent.

Mr. Buthelezi is home affairs minister, the most senior party member in the ANC-dominated national unity government.

In recent weeks the political feud between Inkatha and the ANC spilled over into the Zulu royal court.

A Zulu prince said several members of the royal family were in hiding fearing assassination at the hands of KwaZulu police loyal to Mr.

Buthelezi.

Critics have accused Mr. Buthelezi of using his nephew King Goodwill Zwelithini as a political pawn but Mr. Buthelezi has accused the ANC of trying to drive a wedge between himself and the king.

Several members of the royal family said last week Mr. Buthelezi was trying to humiliate and blackmail King Zwelithini via revelations of his salary.

Political analysts said if the king broke away, it would diminish Mr. Buthelezi's power considerably.

"There is no doubt that he has broken with Buthelezi. He is guarded by the South African National Defence Force and his salary is being paid by Pretoria," Ms. De Haas said.

Mr. Buthelezi considers himself the traditional prime minister to the king but the royal family members said in a statement last week he had no right to the powerful position.

"On the contrary, he is responsible for the unprecedented horrendous and tormenting humiliation of His Majesty and the royal house," the statement said.

China province bans luxury cars for leaders

BEIJING (R) — The east China province of Zhejiang, one of the richest in the nation, has banned its top officials from driving luxury imported cars. The Zhejiang Daily, seen in Beijing Tuesday, said that an order issued by the Discipline Committee of the province's Communist Party had instructed top government and party officials to immediately stop using cars costing more than 500,000 yuan (\$57,500). The cars include brands such as Mercedes Benz, BMW, Lincoln, Cadillac, Rolls Royce and Lexus, it said. The officials must switch to cars suitable to their rank according to government regulations, the order said. It gave no more details. The announcement was greeted with laughter by ordinary Chinese who observed that such orders have been issued and ignored before, because imported cars are an important status symbol for people of high rank. "Any official who can use public money to buy an imported car, not one resident here," a Beijing urban Chinese earned 2,337 yuan (\$269) in 1993, official figures show.

Jeremy Irons to star in Die Hard 3

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif (R) — Actor Jeremy Irons will star opposite Bruce Willis in the upcoming film Die Hard 3, Twentieth Century Fox announced. The British actor won an Oscar for his portrayal of Claus Von Bulow in the film — Reversal of Fortune. Samuel Jackson, who has appeared in Spike Lee's Jungle Fever, and last year's summer blockbuster Jurassic Park has landed the part of Willis' unwilling partner, the studio said. The film, set to begin production July 30, in New York, will be directed by John McTiernan — the director of the original Die Hard. The screenplay, written by Jonathan Hensleigh, finds detective John McClane, played by Willis, in a volatile partnership with a tough activist, when he is drawn into a deadly game with a terrorist bent on destroying New York. Jackson has also appeared in "Mo' Better Blues, directed by Spike Lee, and True Romance.

Got a problem? phone a foreign journalist

BEIJING (AFP) — In a new sign that Chinese society is picking up on Western habits, the population has started complaining to journalists about their problems, or bragging about their new inventions. They are not however moaning or boasting to the Chinese press. Foreign reporters are the main targets of this new-found freedom. Mad professors, women who claim to have been battered or raped by corrupt officials or police, individuals from the province wanting to complain about the government — all head for the offices of foreign correspondents. The new visitors reflect the slow liberalisation of China and greater access to high technology such as the telephone and fax. Wang Xi, a football fanatic from the central province of Hubei, thinks he knows why Germany's World Cup captain Lothar Matthaus will not take penalties. He claims Matthaus has "cracked" mentally. And Wang bombards the AFP bureau with calls and faxes begging coverage of his method of helping sports stars overcome their mental frailties — perhaps to win the World Cup. The eager Wang is just one of hundreds of "sources" now contacting Western media desperate for a story that does not rely on official propaganda. The women who claim to have been abused by officials are the most alarming callers. Those who travel from the province to complain about government corruption or mismanagement are tenacious. But they go to the foreign media because they know their appeals or complaints will stand no chance of getting publicity at home. The People's Daily reminded Chinese journalists recently that they had to stick to the party line and concentrate on "collectivism, socialism and patriotism."

One problem is that few Chinese have a real idea of the role of the foreign press. So foreign journalists are often treated as a kind of psychoanalyst or even a way of getting a visa to the West.

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EU presidency row tests parliament's new powers

BRUSSELS (R) — European Union leaders are under intense pressure to agree on a new European Commission president on July 15 to stave off calls by the incoming European Parliament for a greater say in the appointment.

One of the first tasks of the new, strengthened parliament, which meets on July 19 in the French city of Strasbourg, was to meet and approve the bloc's new chief executive, succeeding Frenchman Jacques Delors.

Germany, the next president of the EU for six months, has called a special summit for July 15 after Britain at last weekend's Corfu summit vetoed the choice of Belgian Premier Jean Luc Dehaene and plunged the 12-nation group into crisis.

Euro-MPs greeted the Corfu failure on British Prime Minister John Major's veto as proof that a system of

behind-the-scenes deals is unworkable, as well as undemocratic.

"When EU citizens are already complaining at not having a word to say in European decision-making it's incomprehensible that the candidate who has the support of 11 countries could not be elected because of the 12th," Belgian Liberal Euro-MP Willy De Clercq said in a statement.

"Wouldn't it be better to leave it to the newly-elected European parliament to decide itself in the name of EU citizens the politician who would be most apt to succeed Jacques Delors?" he said.

The parliament could thus democratically choose one of the candidates which would allow us to avoid the confusion and the delay of the decision that we know today," Klaus Hansch, the Socialist's candidate for the parliament's own presidency, said.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, whose country takes over the EU presidency Friday, has said that he is consulting his partners ahead of the July 15 emergency EU summit in Brussels.

Mr. Dehaene hinted Monday he was prepared to step aside, acknowledging that the British stance against him meant he could not achieve the unanimity required to follow Mr. Delors next January.

But the foreign ministers of France and Germany, the two EU powerhouses, that picked Mr. Dehaene as candidate, said the bloc should not bow to British intransigence and should stick by Mr. Dehaene.

Mr. Dehaene himself said shortly after the failure in Corfu to pick him as president it would be an "affront" to the parliament, the EU's directly elected assembly, if it

U.N. tries to feed trapped civilians in Rwandan capital

KIGALI (R) — The United Nations tried Tuesday to get food to 8,000 trapped and terrified civilians sheltering in a church complex in the battered government-held sector of the Rwandan capital Kigali.

The civilians, hungry and in fear of lives, have been caught on the wrong side of the battle lines as the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) tries to pound government loyalists into submission.



A French soldier taking part in Operation Turquoise shakes hands with Hutu children in the village of Murutu, 60 kilometres from the border with Zaire (AFP photo)

"We are trying to get food to the Sainte Famille (Church complex), and there's a very remote chance we will evacuate people from there as well," U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) spokesman Major Jean-Guy Plante told reporters.

Many of the people in Sainte Famille are Tutsis and are in danger of being pulled out and butchered by pro-government Hutu militias who mill around at the entrances to the complex.

Close to the frontline where rebels are pressing a fierce assault with daily mortar bombardments of government areas, the church also shelters many majority Hutu fleeing the mainly Tutsi rebels.

A rebel mortar bomb slammed into a wall adjoining the main Sainte Famille Church Monday, and inmates of the complex said five people had been killed.

Unable to get food regularly, the people of Sainte

Famille face the added risk of slowly starving to death.

UNAMIR constantly tries to rescue civilians from the Sainte Famille and other compounds — which the militia raid from time to time to drag away fresh massacre victims. A total of 25,000 civilians are trapped behind government lines.

On June 11 militia butchers 60 Tutsi boys they pulled from the complex, sparking outrage in France which led to the French Operation Turquoise which is protecting civilians in the west of the country.

The two sides have agreed to simultaneous exchanges of their civilian supporters on a

one-for-one basis — fighting permitting.

But aid workers say many of the 5,500 civilians holed up in U.N.-guarded compounds on the rebel side of the city are Hutus who do not want to cross to government zones where they will face fierce rebel mortar barrages.

Maj. Plante said Sunday evacuations had been delayed indefinitely because Runda, the drop-off point for people being transferred to government areas 20 kilometres southwest of Kigali, had come under fierce attack.

He indicated Tuesday that the warring sides may be trying to agree on a different

drop-off point.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, meanwhile, prepared to attempt further evacuations of seriously wounded people from its overflowing hospital behind government lines to the King Faisal hospital on the rebel side.

On Monday 45 injured were transferred during a lull in fighting to the King Faisal Clinic run by a team of doctors from the Medecine Sans Frontieres (MSF) medical charity.

Kigali was relatively quiet Tuesday morning after several days of intense rebel mortar barrages. The warring sides appear to use periods of quiet simply to clean their guns and stock up with ammunition for another blitzing.

An estimated 500,000 people, mostly Tutsis or Hutu opponents of the government, were butchered in an orgy of bloodletting following the assassination of Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6.

UNAMIR Commander Major-General Romeo Dallaire, meanwhile, prepared to leave Kigali on his way, via the Kenyan capital Nairobi, to meet the French commanders of Operation Turquoise, at their base in the eastern Cairo town of Goma.

Meanwhile French special force evacuated more than 40 nuns and orphans from central Rwanda on Tuesday to safety in neighbouring Zaire.

Paris talks start; Bosnians fight on

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb and Muslim forces battled for a strategic supply route in Bosnia Tuesday while international mediators put final touches to a new peace plan.

Fighting in north-central Bosnia, although at a lower level than in recent days, continued despite a temporary month-long ceasefire agreed on June 10 which was intended to pave the way for a negotiated settlement.

The top U.N. official in former Yugoslavia expressed alarm at the escalating conflict and warned the Serbs and Muslims to stop attacking U.N. peacekeepers or face NATO air power.

Yasushi Akashi, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghalil's special envoy in the Balkans, issued the warning before heading to Brussels for meetings with NATO chiefs to discuss future steps in the face of collapsing peace efforts.

In Paris, officials of the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany met in secret session to put the final touches to a peace plan intended to end the war.

At the heart of the plan is a draft map which would divide Bosnia along ethnic lines, giving 51 per cent of the territory to the newly formed Muslim-Croat federation and the rest to the Serbs, who currently holds 70 per cent of the land.

Neither side has given an indication that it is ready to agree a settlement along the lines proposed.

A United Nations spokesman in Sarajevo reported an overall drop in the level of

fighting over the past 24 hours, but said hostilities continued around strategic Mount Ozren and for control of a supply route known by the U.N. as "Route Duck."

Control of the route would allow the Muslim-led Bosnian army, who have been on the offensive in the area, easy communication between their strongholds of Zenica and Tuzla.

"Shelling and fighting continued in the Ozren salient, but a noticeable decrease was noted," U.N. spokesman Commander Eric Chaparon told a news conference. "The offensive on Route Duck continues, although reportedly at a lower level."

Maj. Chaparon reported that another active front — the northeastern Bihac enclave, where rebel Muslims are fighting government troops — was quiet after several days of fierce fighting.

In Paris, French officials said no substantive statement should be expected after Tuesday's "contact group" talks with diplomats, meeting in the absence of the warring factions, because they are committed to confidentiality.

The next step is for the peace plan to be agreed on by big power foreign ministers, possibly at a meeting in Geneva Friday, and then further endorsed by leaders of the Group of Seven industrial powers at their summit in Naples next week.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Monday night that the officials would "see whether they can finally complete a draft map and a draft constitutional settle-

Japan Socialists, coalition to open talks

TOKYO (R) — The minority coalition of outgoing Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata agreed with the opposition Socialists Tuesday to open formal policy talks in an effort to forge a new majority government.

"We will enter into formal talks with the ruling coalition to form a new government," Socialist Chairman Tomiichi Murayama said after talks with the heads of the seven alliance parties.

The Socialist about-face followed just one day after the leftist party held inconclusive talks with the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the other force in the current three-day struggle for power.

Mr. Hata, who led Japan's first minority government since 1955, quit Saturday after just two months in power to avoid being felled in an LDP-sponsored non-confidence motion.

The Socialists had walked out of the coalition in April, stripping it of its majority.

Now, the coalition is reluctantly exploring whether the Socialists want to rejoin the bloc.

There was no word, however, on when the two sides could open formal negotiations to draft a common policy platform.

The party chiefs merely agreed that the deadline for naming a new prime minister was Wednesday, last day of the current 150-day parliamentary session.

Until Tuesday the coalition had refused to make a move in the search for Mr. Hata's replacement, saying that was now up to the Socialists and the LDP who had forced him out.

Finally, top coalition strategist Ichiro Ozawa gave in to internal pressure to take back the initiative and try to lure back the Socialists.

On Monday, the Socialists and LDP, for decades bitter cold war foes, had held futile talks to see if there was enough common ground between them.

But Murayama and LDP Yoshi Kono could agree only on the need to put an early end to the current turmoil.

The main reason for the confusion stems from the inability of the Socialist leadership to make up its mind.

The Socialist rightwing, called "democrats," wants to rejoin the coalition, but the leftwing favours an LDP alliance.

Mr. Hata, meanwhile, said he was disgusted with the turmoil.

"It might be better for politics to go all the way down and hit rock bottom," Mr. Hata told reporters before moving his furniture and belongings out of the prime minister's residence.

"After all, politicians are only making these moves on the principles of saving face and lowly things like that."

Mr. Hata might still be obliged to attend the July 8-10 Naples summit meeting of the group of seven leading industrialised countries, making it the second year in a row that Tokyo would be represented at the G7 by a lame-duck premier.

In parliament angry lower house speaker Takako Doi, herself a former Socialist chairwoman, summoned the heads of the various parties and demanded they get on with choosing a new prime minister.

Bangladesh bans weapons after clashes between Islamic groups, secular rivals

DHAKA (AFP) — Bangladesh has outlawed indefinitely carrying arms and ammunition following clashes Monday between Muslim fundamentalists and opponents which left scores injured.

The ban was to avert a possible "showdown" Thursday during a general strike called by fundamentalists demanding punishment for fugitive feminist writer Taslima Nasreen, accused of blaspheming Islam.

The fundamentalists also want blasphemy laws enacted to punish Nasreen and a ban on several "anti-Islamic" newspapers.

Nasreen, 32, a doctorturned-writer, has been in hiding since a local court issued an arrest warrant early

this month for "outraging the religious feelings of Muslims" in remarks she made about Islam's holy book, the Koran.

Press reports said she was seeking asylum in the United States.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner A. N. Hussain said in a statement Tuesday that the arms ban was ordered because of the growing number of activists carrying weapons and to reassure an increasingly alarmed public.

On Monday police had to use batons and tear to break up running street battles between fundamentalists and their opponents.

The fundamentalists' strike call has provoked clashes since the weekend. More rallies were planned for later Tuesday and police were on alert.

One political analyst said extremist groups were using the present crisis to "gain a foothold in state power." He said extremist groups, with the fundamentalist Jamaat-Islami already in parliament, were more organised than their rivals.

Mufti Maulana Fazlul Haque, a vocal Islamic leader, said Tuesday "no more politics of prayers, we will now go to Bangladeshabab (presidential palace)."

Another leader, quoted by the pro-Islamic daily Inqilab, said: "We will no more give blood to defend the country, but will take blood... this country will live as an Islamic country."

lies were planned for later Tuesday and police were on alert.

Tapie wrong-foots critics, sticks it out

PARIS (R) — French soccer boss turned politician Bernard Tapie wrongfooted critics again Tuesday, tabling a bill when most expected him to announce he was quitting because of fraud accusations.

Mr. Tapie had been widely expected to announce his resignation at a news conference, called hours before the National Assembly was due to debate two requests to lift his immunity from prosecution for alleged tax and business fraud.

But, buoyed by a stunning success in this month's European election, he staged a coup de theatre, saying he would stick it out to push through his bill to ban youth unemployment, one of France's most acute problems.

"I am not going to quit just when I want to fight to push that bill through," he told the news conference.

He had earlier hinted he might leave the French Assembly to focus on the European Parliament seat he

won earlier this month.

The jobs plan, which he has not yet described in detail, has been hailed by young people but ridiculed by critics as wishful thinking.

Mr. Tapie said it was coincidental that he proposed the bill on Tuesday. "It could have been yesterday or tomorrow," he said.

He said he would defend himself in the National Assembly later in the day against the requests to lift his immunity.

The Assembly's Immunity Committee unanimously recommended last week that the house approve the requests in cases involving Mr. Tapie's luxury pleasure yacht, the Phoebe, which he had registered as a commercial vessel for tax purposes.

"I love this kind of occasions. I've such good memories of the previous one," Mr. Tapie said.

The Assembly last year ignored his plea and voted to

Nigeria conference adjourns until July 11

ABUJA (AFP) — Nigeria's constitutional conference, which opened here Monday, adjourned its debates Tuesday until July 11.

Officials said the adjournment resulted from the fact delegates had asked for more time to examine the conference's agenda.

The 360 delegates, who are to discuss the country's return to civilian rule, Tuesday morning held a short debate during which several complained about lack of preparation for the meeting, according to several participants.

After a suspension, the conference session resumed behind closed doors and a decision was taken to adjourn for two weeks.

The opposition has denounced the conference as a farce and called for the release from jail of Mashood Abiola, the reputed winner

of last year's annulled presidential election.

Meanwhile, police shot and wounded seven women demonstrators in Lagos and arrested hundreds more during a series of rallies in support of Mr. Abiola, the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights said Tuesday.

The women, many of them small-time traders from the Ikeja district of northern Lagos where Mr. Abiola lives, were holding a demonstration when police intervened, firing in their direction and wounding seven, the committee said in a statement signed by its national secretary Segun Jegede.

Several more demonstrations, involving tradeswomen, took place in several other northern Lagos districts and a total of 400 demonstrators were detained, the committee said.

Kravchuk leads Ukraine poll

KIEV (AFP) — Incumbent Leonid Kravchuk emerged as the leader in the first round of Ukraine's presidential ballot, Interfax-Ukraine News Agency said Tuesday.

The report, based on unofficial returns from virtually all local and regional electoral commissions, put support for Mr. Kravchuk at 36 per cent compared to 32 per cent for his nearest challenger, former Premier Leonid Kuchma.

It said western regions of the country where support for Mr. Kravchuk was around 90 per cent were among the last to announce returns following Sunday's vote.

The report said turnout in Sunday's vote topped 77.6 million of the country's 38 million eligible voters and of those some 9.8 million cast ballots for Mr. Kravchuk while 8.2 million favoured Mr. Kuchma.

An aide to Mr. Kuchma said earlier that he planned to protest alleged "falsification"

of ballots in the contest.

Mr. Kravchuk, the former Communist Party ideology boss for Ukraine, and Mr. Kuchma, former director of the world's largest missile factory, are to face each other in a runoff ballot on July 10.

The results, if confirmed by the Central Electoral Commission, highlight the split between the industrialised east where voters favouring closer ties with Russia backed Mr. Kuchma.

In some eastern Ukrainian constituencies Mr. Kuchma opened up a lead of between 20 and 40 percentage points over Mr. Kravchuk, who in several areas took only third place behind Alexander Moroz, speaker of the Ukrainian parliament.

But in the west of the country, where support for Mr. Kravchuk often topped 90 per cent, Mr. Kuchma managed to garner only a few percentage points of the vote.

SPD seeks red-green coalition in German state

BONN (R) — Germany's Social Democrats (SPD), in a shift with important implications for its general election campaign, will try to form a minority government with the ecologist Greens in the eastern state of Sakony-Anhalt.

The main opposition party, which lost by a whisker to the Christian Democrats (CDU) in the state poll Sunday, rejected Monday evening an offer from Chancellor Helmut Kohl's party for a CDU-SPD grand coalition in the state.

A grand coalition initially seemed the most likely result in the state, as well as in Bonn after the Oct. 16 vote.

But the SPD opted for a risky alliance with the ecologists, an option known here as a "red-green" coalition, to prove it was serious about driving Mr. Kohl from office.

"It's no good to cover Germany with grand coalitions just because we can't think of anything else," Reinhard Hoeppner, the SPD leader in Sakony-Anhalt who hopes to become the state's next premier, told German television

Tuesday.

"If the red-green experiment works, we'll finally get some movement in politics," he said.

The SPD won 34 per cent of the vote to get 36 seats in the state assembly, just behind the CDU's 34.4 per cent and 37 seats. The Greens scored 5.1 per cent for five seats and the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) got 19.9 for 21 seats.

The SPD says it must lead the government because only one third of the voters backed the centre-right coalition. The CDU's partner, the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP), lost all their seats because they missed the minimum five per cent of the vote.

The tactic is fraught with risks, not least because it opens the SPD to CDU charges that it is creating a "popular front," with the tacit support of the reform communist PDS.

The local CDU has vowed to oppose a red-green coalition in Magdeburg, the Saxony-Anhalt capital, while the PDS has said it would

tolerate it to ensure the government does not fall.

The CDU will also brand the red-green alliance as a threat to national security because the leftist Greens have called for Germany to withdraw from NATO.

One CDU strategist said that SPD tactic was a desperate bid to revive a flagging election campaign and remarked: "This is a big mistake for the SPD and very good for us."

But SPD tacticians said the party could not let those risks keep it from showing it was serious about reforms and did not want to slip quietly into a grand coalition with Mr. Kohl if — as looks likely — neither main party can muster a majority.

"This shows we will use the opportunities for change almost whenever we can," one party official said.

"We have no coalition preferences. Our only conditions are that there will be no coalition with the PDS and we will try to avoid a grand coalition in Bonn as much as possible."

The calculated risk in Magdeburg was the first practical sign of the reinvigorated campaign that party leader Rudolf Scharping announced to a rousing party congress last week.

The SPD, which early this year seemed sure of victory, has slid behind the CDU in opinion surveys after losing the last three polls in Germany's 19-vote electoral marathon this year.

The latest weekly national survey by the Emnid Group gave the CDU 38 per cent and the FDP eight for a total of 46 per cent, far below the 54.8 per cent they won in 1990 and possibly not enough to reach a majority of seats in the parliament.

It said the SPD would win 34 per cent, the Greens seven per cent and the PDS six per cent.

The liberal Frankfurter Rundschau hailed Mr. Hoeppner's bid for power in Sakony-Anhalt as an encouraging sign for the SPD.

"If he wins (and his chances are not bad at all), then he will send a signal that change is possible," it wrote.

Germany get a fright before seeing off the South Koreans

Germany 3, S. Korea 2

DALLAS, Texas (AFP) — Germany got the World Cup shock of their lives when they came to beat South Korea 3-2 in their final Group C match here Monday.

The result ensured the defending champions topped the group and went back to Chicago for the next round while Korea must start packing as they head back home.

What had looked like a simple stroll for the Germans, after they took a 3-0 lead at half time, turned into a nail-biting climax that had the Korean fans in the 64,000 crowd believing the impossible could happen.

The Germans paid a heavy price in victory. They lost sweeper and captain Lothar Matthaus who went off injured in the second half.

Matthaus suffered a one-centimetre-long gash in a foot when fouled early in the game and left the field in the 64th minute. "I was in a lot of pain. It was stitched up but the pain became too much so I asked to be substituted," said Matthaus.

It is not yet known whether he will be fit for their second round tie July 2 against the third-placed side from either Group A, B or F.

The Germans had looked firmly in control when Jürgen Klinsmann got the first of his two goals in the 11th minute. Thomas Hassler's low cross was behind the Monaco player but he flipped the ball up in the air to his right and volleyed a fierce left-foot shot past a helpless Choi In-Young.

In the 30th-minute Klins-

mann scored his second, bringing the ball down from a Matthaus cross and hitting a shot past Choi who allowed it to slip through his grasp.

Karlheinz Riedle had scored Germany's second in the 19th minute, slotting the ball home after Guido Buchwald's shot came back off the left post.

Choi's first-half performance led to his replacement at half time by Korean coach Kim Ho, who had some strong words for his players in the dressing room.

"I told them to stop being intimidated by the Germans and to go out and play their normal game," said Kim. "As for taking off our captain Choi, my first duty is to the team and to winning. He was not playing well so I replaced him."

In the end it would not have made any difference. Germany hardly had a shot during the second half as the Koreans laid siege to the world champions' goal.

Before the match Kim had warned he would use the sweltering heat in the Cotton Bowl to his side's advantage. "We are fitter than the Germans. The heat will affect them more," he had said.

So it proved. Only seven minutes after the restart Hwang Sun-Hung put Park Jung-Bae through on the left to fire past Bodo Illgner.

The inspired Koreans were ready to run themselves to a standstill and 11 minutes later Hong Myung-Bo let rip with a 30-metre drive that Illgner had no chance of stopping.



South Korea's Choi Young II lays on the ground after the whistle, ending South Korea's hopes of advancing to the 2nd round of the World Cup Monday at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. Standing near Choi are Germany's German Karlheinz Riedle (#9) and Thomas Häßler (#5) (AFP photo)

German press slam 'embarrassing' win

BONN (R) — Germany's popular press slammed the national soccer side Tuesday for a sloppy performance in their final first round match of the World Cup, which they won by a narrow 3-2 against unfancied South Korea.

"Embarrassing win" the Cologne tabloid Express said. "After fatal mistakes in defence the match became more and more of a cliff-hanger."

The reigning world champions went into a comfortable 3-0 lead before halftime and looked like producing the fireworks trainer Berti Vogts had promised.

But they wilted in the heat and found themselves hanging on for grim death at the end after South Korea stormed back with two second-half goals.

Munich's Abendzeitung paper was no more charitable

than the Express, and said a repeat showing would not get the side past the next round. "Sorry — if Berti's side play like this they can pack their bags," ran the headline.

Despite their sub-standard play and two other similarly indifferent showings in beating Bolivia 1-0 and drawing 1-1 with Spain, Germany qualified for the second round as winners of their group.

Caminero's double strike takes Spain past Bolivia

CHICAGO, Illinois (AFP)

— Spain qualified for the World Cup second round by beating Bolivia 3-1 here Monday in their last Group C match which came to life with three goals in the second half.

Jose Luis Caminero scored twice in a six-minute spell midway through the second half to settle the outcome for Spain who now play Switzerland in Washington.

Josep Guardiola had given Spain a 1-0 half-time lead from a disputed penalty and Erwin Sanchez scored Bolivia's first World Cup goal in between Caminero's pair.

Guardiola struck his penalty at the middle of the goal and Carlos Trucco would have saved the shot if he had not dived to his right.

Costa Rican referee Rodrigo Badilla Sequeira pointed to the spot in the 18th minute when Felipe went flying as he was challenged by Bolivia's Carlos Borja under a right wing cross from Caminero.

The Bolivian players claimed Felipe had taken a dive.

Caminero made it 2-0 in the 64th minute when he shot under Trucco after Sergi's jinking run on the left put him clear in the penalty area.

Sanchez reduced the deficit within a minute when his 25 metre shot was deflected by Salvador Voro past the wrong-footed Spanish goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta.

But Caminero killed off the Bolivian rally when he chested down Albert Ferrer's long cross from the right and tucked the ball coolly past Trucco.

The Atletico Madrid player had scored two goals in four internationals before the tournament started.

Bolivia had played the more constructive football and William Ramallo, who had recovered from injury, had hit the bar from 30 metres after only three minutes with Zubizarreta stuck to his line.

Bolivia twice went close to scoring in the last two minutes.

Second half substitute Jaime Moreno hooked over from point-blank range when



Bolivian forward Erwin Sanchez celebrates after scoring his country's first-ever goal in World Cup history Monday during the second half of their match against Spain at Soldier Field in Chicago. Spain won the match 3-1 (AFP photo)

Ramallo headed on and Zubizarreta came out to smother a shot from Sanchez.

Ramiro Castillo, another substitute, shot over from 25 metres as the South Americans tried desperately to get back on level terms, but Bolivia, who had a player sent off in each of their two previous matches, now face an early flight back to La Paz.

Ramallo should have done better with a 53rd minute opening made by Sanchez but he blasted hopelessly wide.

Spain had gone looking for

an early goal at the start of the second half and Andoni Goikoetxea forced Trucco into a plunging dive from close range. Five minutes later the goalkeeper needed treatment after being kicked on the knee when he dived at the feet of Goikoetxea.

Then came the three-goal flurry which ended with Spain, after draws against South Korea and Germany, at the last 16.

"It was a very hard match. The whole team played well," Zubizarreta said.



Cameroon's goalkeeper Joseph-Antoine Bell (L) refuses the gloves of his teammate Thomas N'Kono during a practice session Monday in Moraga. Bell has announced he is quitting the Cameroon team because of a lack of funding for salaries (AFP photo)

Cameroon players resist orders from on high — Milla, Bell

YAOUNDE (AFP) — Politicians in the Cameroon capital tried to force changes on their country's World Cup team against Brazil only hours before kick-off.

Veteran striker Roger Milla and Joseph-Antoine Bell, their goalkeeper who quit the national team following the 3-0 defeat by Brazil in San Francisco last Friday, revealed the governmental intervention Monday.

The Cameroon squad's united front against the orders

prevented changes but Milla and Bell both said outside interference had had a negative effect on the team's performance in the United States.

Milla told the Cameroon sports weekly Challenge Sports: "It's sad that for a match as important as Brazil we are given the team sheet for the game then, just as we are leaving, we are told that orders have come from Yaounde to bring in such and such a player in place of

someone else. "It's pathetic and should not happen to a team with Cameroon's prestige."

The intervention from Yaounde came after the team threatened to refuse to play against Brazil if they were not paid what the federation had promised.

Bell's decision never to play again for the national side was yet another distraction for a team whose squabbles with their federation seem never-ending.

No red cards for World Cup referees

DALLAS (R) — Refereeing standards at the World Cup have been so high that no match officials will be sent home early for bad performances, FIFA said Monday.

David Will, chairman of FIFA's refereeing committee, told a news conference soccer's governing body was slightly disappointed with only two displays from the men in the middle in the 26 games played to date.

"More than two thirds have received exceptionally high marks from the independent referees' inspector," Will said. "Of the rest only two were a little bit lower than we would like but they were not really low, more average."

Will, who declined to name the two referees, said no officials would be sent home until after the quarter-final stage of the competition and only then because fewer were needed to cover the remaining matches.

FIFA had threatened earlier to dismiss officials who failed to reach acceptable standards or to follow instructions aimed at cutting down on violent conduct and time-wasting.

"The overview of the com-

mittee is that the quality of the refereeing and the performance of the linesmen has been of a very high standard, certainly much higher than in Italy four years ago," Will said.

He said FIFA's decision to fix a maximum age of 45 for referees to improve their fitness and to introduce specialist linesmen at the World Cup had been fully vindicated.

FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter said match statistics showed the average number of fouls committed had dropped from 39 in Italy to 28 at the U.S. finals.

He said officials had been cut from eight per game to 6.5 and the amount of time the ball stayed in play had increased from 52 minutes on average four years ago to 61 minutes.

Will said FIFA had given no specific instructions on stoppage time to referees, who have been adding on anything from two to eight minutes in each half at the finals.

He said referees had also reported a big improvement in players' behaviour with few being booked for dissent.

World Cup plus strike adds up to 'worst traffic jam in history'

SEOUL (AFP) — World Cup fever compounded strike chaos Tuesday to cause Seoul's biggest traffic jam as the soccer fiesta caused problems across Asia.

Commuters joined in a rush-hour free-for-all, causing what local press reports called "the worst traffic congestion in history," in Seoul.

An opinion poll in Hong Kong showed that World Cup soccer attracted more interest than discussion of democratic reforms for the colony.

Millions of commuters poured into the strike-bound Seoul streets to get to work after watching South Korea's valiant cliff-hanger defeat against the world champions Germany on television.

Some 50 commuters, including a pregnant woman, suffered near-suffocation at Sadang Station in southern Seoul, when they were pushed over and crushed by hundreds of others pushing into a car.

The woman was listed in a grave condition while 19 others had to be treated for suffocation and bruises at hospital, Yonhap news agency said.

The angry commuters, many of them already in a fighting mood after their nation's narrow 3-2 defeat in a tough battle against Germany, then went on a rampage, shattering windows

of subway offices and scuffling with riot police.

The subway system further cut its services, worsening the already notorious rush-hour squeeze, as substitute engineers, filling in for striking workers, had to take breaks because of fatigue.

Many commuters delayed venturing out on to the strike-hit streets, staying at home to urge their team on as they turned a first-half 3-0 rout into the 3-2 drama.

Elsewhere in Asia, cup mania has claimed at least two lives since the tournament began — a soccer-mad cafe owner in Macau, who died from exhaustion after watching the TV non-stop for two days, and a young man in Thailand, who hanged himself after losing a bet on the Dutch team.

In Hong Kong, the authorities Tuesday urged employers to boost safety precautions for workers, who are reporting bleary-eyed for duty after all-night viewing.

"Workers may be more prone to accidents if they lack sufficient sleep or rest for a prolonged period," Chan Tat-King, the colony's factory inspector, warned.

According to an opinion poll carried out by the University of Hong Kong, 37.2 per cent of the public shows more interest in the World Cup than Governor Chris Patten's democratic reform

package for the territory, compared with 26.9 per cent who put the package first.

In Thailand, the authorities appeared to have given up fighting the fever.

The education ministry let secondary schools July 19, the day following the World Cup final, giving a potential day of grace to 2.1 million students in 2,140 schools.

Opposition parties in the Thai parliament announced they would delay launching a no-confidence motion against the government until after the tournament had finished.

China's official People's Daily last week urged the country's 100 million soccer fans (who reportedly include 89-year-old paramount leader Deng Xiaoping) not to lose too much sleep watching World Cup matches.

It also urged fans to keep the volume of the broadcasts down so as not to wake up relatives and neighbours.

The Beijing youth Daily reported that a man changed his name to Luo Xi, the Chinese translation of Italy's veteran player Paolo Rossi, and another was abandoned by his wife because of his obsession with soccer.

The official media also began an increase in betting, a surge in the price of colour television sets — and civil servants who are turning up late for work and going home early.

Milla to help children

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Cameroon's colourful striker Roger Milla already knows what is on the agenda after the World Cup — helping children in his native country.

The oldest player to compete in the World Cup finals at 42 tentatively set up a foundation four months ago for youngsters in need.

Though he has yet to decide in what way it will bring aid, financial and moral support will probably be the two main benefits.

"Helping children is very important to me. I hope the foundation I set up will be of great help to a lot of children," he said.

He intends to compete in a tournament in Africa following the World Cup and is considering working for FIFA in a position representing Africa.

And on hopes for African nations in future World Cup. "It will continue to be important that we progress. In past, African teams did not have a good showing when they played in the World Cup.

Now at least we are here and we are strong."

His wiggling hips made him a superstar at the Italian World Cup four years ago in an otherwise mediocre tournament.

However, it was not all such plain sailing in USA 94. He admitted he had come on at a terrible time against Brazil in Group B.

Milla entered the match less than two minutes before Marcio Santos made it 2-1 for Brazil, and a minute after Rigobert Song was sent off.

"It was an awful time to come on, but that's the way it is," he said.

Milla said he had tried to make sure football and not money was on the agenda in the U.S. but after two matches goalkeeper Joseph-Antoine Bell pulled out because of pressure from Cameroon politicians.

Bell was the ringleader for calling a strike in protest at money owed to players by the federation.

Milla said: "They were at the World Cup to play matches and the Bell affair was not

a sporting question, it was quiet another matter."

At the 1990 World Cup in Italy, Milla came on as a sub to score against both Romania and Colombia.

Yet far from feeling the pressure that he and Cameroon should score this tie, he said it was out of his hands.

"If it's God's will, we will have 10 goals. But if it's God's will we will have zero," he said.

In Italy, Milla also became the oldest player ever to score at a World Cup, being one year older than Sweden's Gunnar Gren who was 37 when he scored against West Germany in the 1958 semi-finals.

His two late goals against Romania, his outfoxing of eccentric Colombian keeper Rene Higuita before scoring, and a superb performance against England in Naples elevated him to hero status.

England's Stanley Matthews is the oldest international. He was two months older than the 42-year-old Milla when he played Denmark in 1957.

World Cup conversion not complete

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) — Millions of Americans have jumped on the World Cup bandwagon, but even as the Alexi Lalas wigs proliferate, plenty of U.S. sports fans are proving immune to the football bug.

"My feeling is that if they flew me in on a helicopter that landed on the 50-yard line and had me sit in an air-conditioned box, I still wouldn't go," said Southern California insurance broker Gene Whitlock.

"I suppose I'm interested in the United States, but Cameroon? That sounds like a cookie."

Cup organisers and FIFA officials never miss an opportunity to spout figures showing that the World Cup has revolutionised the perception

of soccer in America.

And they may be right. Attendance are on course for a World Cup record, with the United States' final Group A match against Romania drawing 93,689 spectators to the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, site of the July 17 final.

Even in Dallas, where ticket sales lagged behind the other eight venues, two matches have sold out.

Television viewing figures have exceeded organisers' wildest expectations.

Early ratings showed that in 29 major metropolitan areas Sunday's U.S.-Romania match drew a television audience three times that of Wimbledon or the PGA Tour golf tournament at Hartford.

But still, pockets of resistance remain. Television comedian David Letterman regularly pillories the Cup on his late-night show.

Barely into the second week of the 31-day extravaganza Letterman quipped: "I think I speak for millions of Americans when I say, is the World Cup over yet?"

During the United States' historic 2-1 victory over Colombia, patrons at a south Pasadena eatery were happy to turn their attention from the match to watch the introductions of the players in the last game of the National Basketball Association (NBA) finals.

Basketball is much more comprehensible," said banker Steve McIntire. "Everything in soccer seems to be random and accidental."

figures show.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date: 27/06/1994
Loan No.: KFW 89 66 400
IFB No.: 34/94/OMS

- The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau in Deutsche Marks towards the Water Supply Greater Amman Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract(s) for which this IFB has been issued.
- The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from bidders in the Federal Republic of Germany (eligible bidders) for the supply of Mobile Repair Units, Workshop Trucks and Equipment.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from, and inspect the bidding documents at, the office of the Secretary General, Tenders Division, Water Authority, P.O. Box 2412 Amman, Jordan, Tel. 680100, Tlx. 22439 WAJ JO, Fax. 679143.
- A complete set of the tender documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 150.
- All bids must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of the offered total and must be delivered to the office not later than 1200 hours, Jordan local time, on Wednesday 27 July, 1994.
- Saturday 18 July, 1994, is the last day set for the purchasing of tender documents.

Eng. Koussai Quteishat
Secretary General
Water Authority

